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LETTER FROM THE Editor

Last season was one for the book in the National Football League. The record book, that is. Miami's Dan Marino, who rewrote the single-season marks for passing yards and touchdowns in 1984, added a new chapter for quarterbacks a year ago when he set career marks for pass attempts, completions, yards, and touchdowns. That relegated the former record-holder for those categories, Fran Tarkenton, to a footnote.

While Marino's place is secure for now, a number of quarterbacks made their mark last fall during an offensive assault on the record book. Four players threw for over 4,000 yards and 12 completed more than 60 percent of their throws. Brett Favre had an NFC-record 38 touchdown passes, earning Green Bay its first division title in 23 years and himself the league's Most Valuable Player award. Troy Aikman completed nearly 65 percent of his passes and had an NFC-low 1.6 interception percentage. But he raises his game to another level in the postseason, where his all-time passer rating is second only to Bart Starr's.

Aikman had help in leading Dallas to its third Super Bowl title in four years. Running mate Emmitt Smith had a league-high 1,773 yards and an NFL-record 25 touchdowns. The yardage put him more than halfway toward Walter Payton's place atop the game's rushing chart. Deion Sanders did his part as well. After earning a Super Bowl ring with San Francisco, Sanders defected to Dallas as a free agent and added to his jewelry collection. But it was another member of the Cowboys' secondary, Larry Brown, an unheralded 12th-round draft pick, who collected MVP honors in the Super Bowl after his second interception insured the victory.

Dallas has successfully dealt with losses sustained by free agency, salary cap restrictions, and injuries. Now it must withstand the self-inflicted wounds caused by off-the-field problems. And lurking in the wings in the AFC, waiting for the opportunity to topple Dallas, are the Dolphins' Jimmy Johnson, who directed the Cowboys to two Super Bowl championships, and the record-breaking Marino. Mark your calendars: October 27—Dallas at Miami!

Gerard Kavanagh

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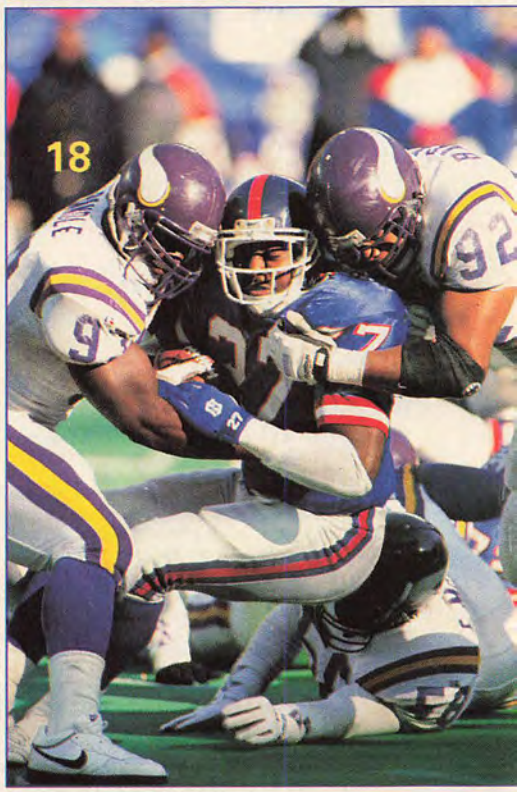

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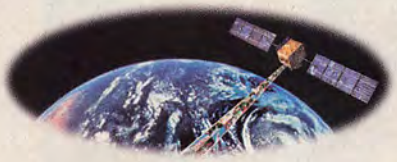

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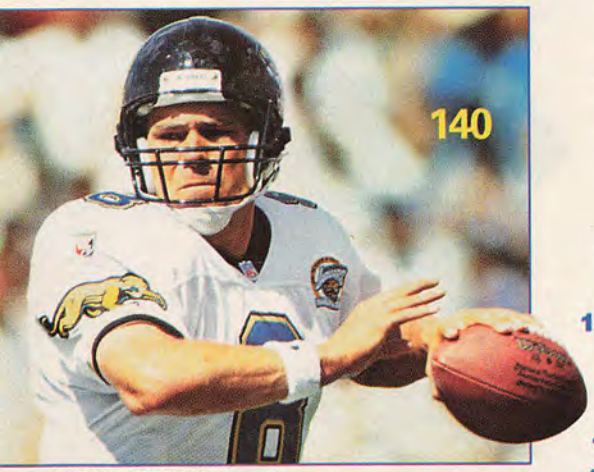

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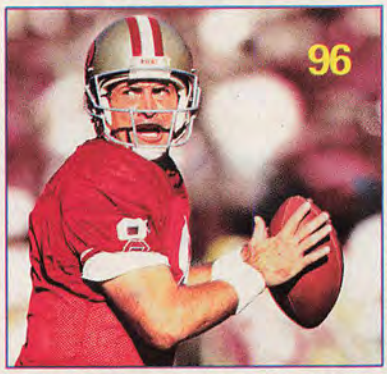

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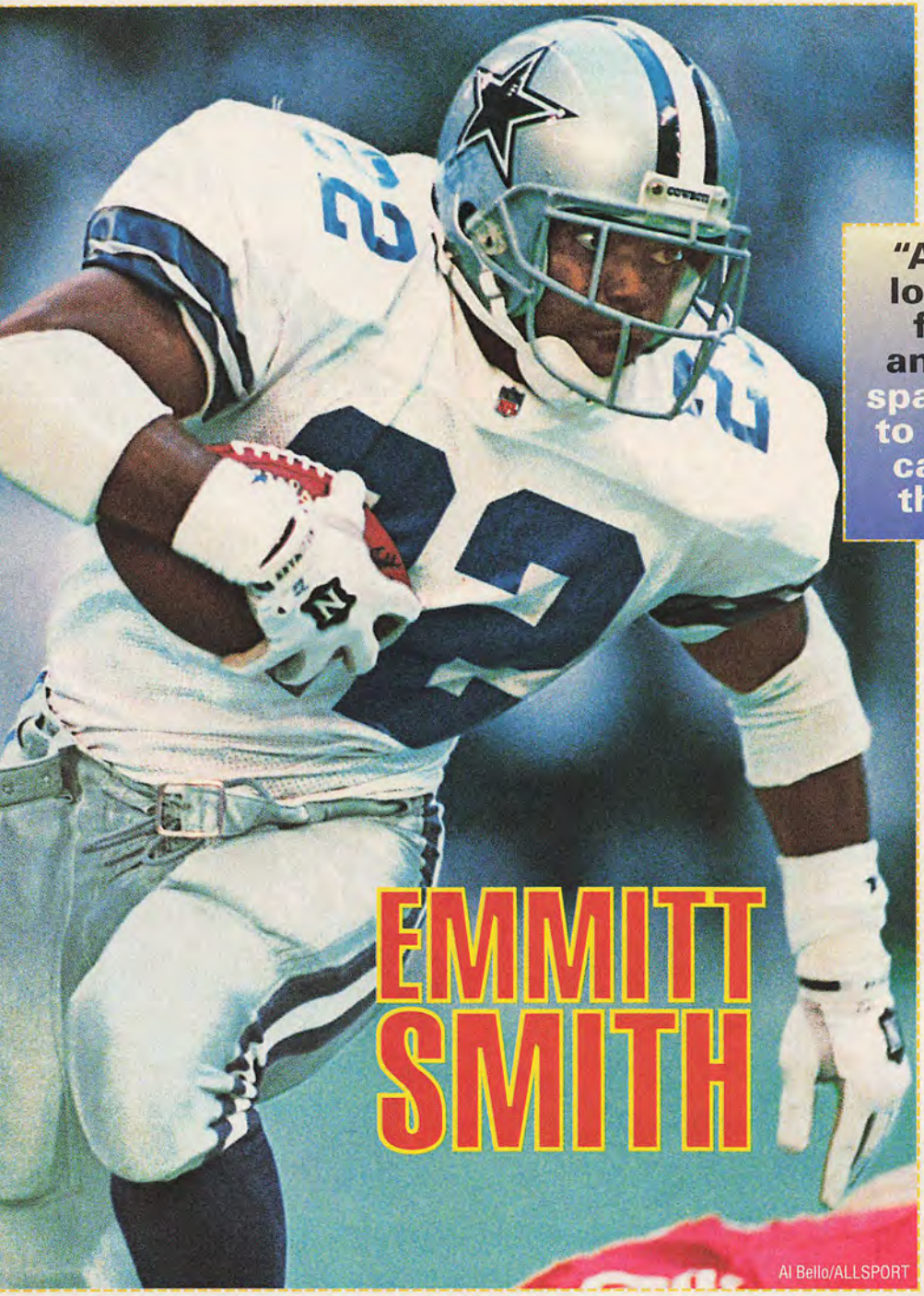
FOOTBALL'S BEST

by Stever Aschburner
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Emmitt Smith has scampered across that threshold where people stop writing odes and feature stories and start writing professional obituaries. Running backs are supposed to sputter, gasp, and limp when they reach the sort of career numbers Smith has achieved. The 5-9, 209-pound Florida alum has crammed his 2,007 carries (within 352 of Jim Brown's nine-year total) and 8,956 yards (more than halfway to the 16,726 that Walter Payton amassed over 13 seasons) into six years.

The Cowboys went 12-4 and won their third Super Bowl of the '90s with 29 different players and a different head coach from their championship team three years earlier. Smith was remarkable. He regained the rushing title from Barry Sanders by a comfy 273 yards, and his 1,773 yards and 377 carries were career highs. He had a record 25 touchdowns to move into fifth place all-time, only 14 behind Payton's rushing total of 110. He has scored 38 touchdowns in his last 23 games and has kept the football from each one, suggesting an awfully large den or basement. His value to the Cowboys is unquestioned. They are 62-8 when he carries at least 20 times, 43-5 when he gets 100 yards. When he doesn't play at all, they are 0-4.



EMMITT SMITH

Al Bello/ALLSPORT

Smith makes it sound simple: "All I'm looking for is an open space and to see if I can get there."

Pittsburgh's 3-4 defense stymied Smith for just 49 yards in Super Bowl XXX. But think back to the NFC title game, when he rushed 35 times for 150 yards in a 38-27 victory over Green Bay. He scored the Cowboys' final three touchdowns and, when they were backed up to their 1-yard line in the second quarter, broke free for 25 yards to start a 99-yard drive that he finished with a 1-yard plunge.

"All I'm looking for is an open space and to see if I can get there."

How much longer can Smith, 27, run? He has already beaten the odds for running backs of average workloads. An arc of four seasons, start to finish, is considered the norm. He had trouble with his hamstrings in 1994, when he "slumped" to 1,484 yards. Smith's protection, the Dallas offensive line, is still dominant but aging, and the Cowboys spent their 1995 first-round pick on Alabama's Sherman Williams to have a ready replacement for Smith.

With only this season left on a four-year, $13.6 million package, Smith heard Cowboys owner Jerry Jones talk about a deal that would reflect Smith's worth to the team and keep him in silver-and-white for life. Still, Smith had to hold out for two games to get his last contract. He hasn't doused speculation that he might like to play again for Jimmy Johnson, now in Miami. Meanwhile, Jones has tried to use guilt, alluding to teammates that will be waived to make room for Smith's salary under the cap.

"I don't know what the future holds," said Smith, "but I'm pretty pleased with where I've been." ❑

BRETT FAVRE

Imagine Steve Young without Jerry Rice or Troy Aikman without Michael Irvin. Now try to imagine those quarterbacks having the best individual seasons of their careers while leading their teams deeper into the postseason than in any of the past 28 years.

That's exactly what Green Bay's Brett Favre did. Without Sterling Sharpe (who caught 314 passes in his final three seasons and 18 of Favre's 33 touchdown passes in 1994), Favre threw for 4,413 yards with an NFC-record 38 TDs and only 13 interceptions. The Packers went 11-5, won their first NFC Central title in 23 years, beat the defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers in the playoffs, and reached the NFC championship game for the first time since 1967.

Deservedly, Favre, who threw 33 touchdowns with just 3 interceptions in the Packers' 11 victories, was chosen as the NFL's MVP. He also became Green Bay's first All-Pro quarterback since Bart Starr.

No one was more confident than Favre that the Packers could survive without Sharpe (whose career ended with a neck injury). Favre wasn't obliged to serve one premier receiver. Twelve players caught passes and a league-high nine of them scored. Robert Brooks led with 102 receptions for 1,497 yards and 13 touchdowns, but five others caught at least 30 balls and three TDs.

It has been four years since Atlanta, which had drafted Favre out of Southern Mississippi in 1991, shipped the native of Kiln, MS, north. It has been three years since Favre tossed 19 touchdowns and an unnerving 24 interceptions. He turned those numbers around in 1994, with 33 TDs and 14 interceptions (23-8 in the last nine games), and came of age last season.

Perhaps Favre's most impressive stat is his 14-0 record when the temperature at kickoff is 35 degrees or below. That endears him to the Packers' faithful, for whom Favre is willing to play his entire career if the parties can work out a new deal. At 26, his best seemingly is yet to come. His all-time quarterback rating (86.8) ranks fourth in NFL history, behind Young (96.1), Joe Montana (92.3), and Dan Marino (88.4), but Favre is more proud of his 61 consecutive starts and 37-24 record in those games.

"What people will care about is how many wins I have," Favre said. "Things like consecutive starts mean something to me. I want people to look back and say, 'He was a winner and he was fun as hell to watch.' "

Fun to watch? Favre is worth the price of admission. Unlike Aikman, who wisely plants himself in the pocket behind Dallas's impenetrable offensive line, Favre wheels and deals from anywhere behind the line of scrimmage. Tough and fearless, he endured 33 sacks last season.

"I'm willing to do whatever it takes to win," Favre said. "I love blocking and I love throwing the bomb. If I had been 280 pounds, I could have been a nose tackle. I have that mentality, and I think that's great for a quarterback. The ability to improvise is the most important thing: Making something happen when nothing is there."

"I want people to look back and say, 'He was a winner and he was fun to watch.'"

About the only thing that does seem to stymie him is Texas Stadium. Green Bay's 38-27 loss to Dallas in the NFC title game weighs heavily on Favre, thanks to Larry Brown's fourth-quarter interception that doused the Packers' hopes. Time ran out that day with Favre getting sacked on three consecutive plays. He will be back, though. Count on it. ❑

David Graham/Active Images, INC.

Michael Yelman

BRYCE PAUP

"I'm not the fastest in the world, but I'm one of the quickest guys off the ball."

Bryce Paup is everything the Green Bay Packers and their fans like and stand for: A hard worker, a humble man of action, and a ferocious quarterback sacker. He even loves snowmobiling, for crying out loud. Paup grew up in Iowa, so building a home and making a life in the hinterlands of the NFL's smallest market would have come easily. He was ready to put down roots.

Except the Packers didn't want him. At least not at his price. So they let the 6-5, 247-pound Pro Bowl linebacker walk. The Packers had a good year, winning the NFC Central and coming within a game of the Super Bowl. Still, it took months before Green Bay GM Ron Wolf acknowledged that he had made a "miscalculation" in not re-signing Paup.

The Buffalo Bills signed Paup ($7.6 million over three years) after finishing 7-9 in 1994 with a defense that had managed only 25 sacks and ranked 17th. Paup, nervous about his acceptance by teammates and fans, gave them a glimpse of the season to come in the second exhibition game. He shoved aside Steelers fullback Steve Avery and sacked Neil O'Donnell, causing a fumble. The Bills amassed 49 sacks (including a league-high 17.5 by Paup), rebounded to 11-5, and won the AFC East for the sixth time in eight seasons. Paup earned the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year award. His No. 95 jersey is a big seller at the souvenir stands.

Not bad for a guy who grew up in Scranton, Iowa, a town of about 750 people 70 miles northwest of Des Moines. Paup learned his work habits on the family farm, where he converted an old chicken house into a makeshift gym. He learned some of his football habits from his older brothers, who spared him no punishment in pick-up games.

When it was time for college, Paup (pronounced "Pop") got rejected by both Iowa and Iowa State. Only after his girlfriend and future wife, Denise, then a freshman at Northern Iowa, told one of the Panthers' assistant coaches about Paup did he get a chance there. They watched some grainy video of Paup in action, saw a man among boys, and quickly offered him a scholarship.

A sixth-round pick in 1990, Paup spent most of his rookie season on Green Bay's IR or special teams. In 1991, he had 7.5 sacks, including 4.5 in one game against Tampa Bay. He had 6.5 sacks in 1992, 11 in 1993, and 7.5 in 1994, yet started all 16 games for the Packers only once. In a way, Paup, 28, was a victim of his own approach. He works so hard, and relies so much on fundamentals, that people typecast him as an over-achiever whose skills don't quite match his sweat.

"I'm not the fastest in the world, but I'll challenge anybody on reaction time," said Paup, whose crewcut makes him look like a latter-day Dick Butkus. "I'm one of the quickest guys off the ball, and there's no substitute for that."

Packers defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur called Paup "as good a team guy as I've ever been around in 40 years of coaching." Green Bay bounced Paup all over the defense. Inside, outside, defensive end. Pass rush, pass coverage, run defense. The Bills stuck him in the lineup as a pass rusher, then dared offensive lines to stop both him and Bruce Smith. It was much like his best days in Green Bay, where Reggie White drew the double-teams; Smith either attracted the blockers or broke loose thanks to Paup's pressure.

Alas, with Smith too ill to play in the Bills' AFC playoff game against Pittsburgh, Paup got bottled up by the Steelers in a 40-21 defeat. The double- and triple-teams he saw that day said as much about Paup's reputation as it did about Smith's absence.

"It's harder to stay at a consistent level when they decide that you're good," Paup said.

And that is not a miscalculation. ❑

Greg Lloyd heard something that San Diego linebacker Junior Seau once said about mediocrity, and he pounced on it as if it were a quarterback in the open field. "Seau compared [life] to a chessboard," the Steelers' All-Pro said. "If you're mediocre, you're a pawn. There's a bunch of those on the board. I want to be the damn king."

Funny thing is, it's other guys who get crowned. In nine NFL seasons, Lloyd is more tyrant than benevolent ruler, and one of the league's most punishing competitors. Former coach Jerry Glanville labeled Lloyd "the meanest man in football." At the Super Bowl Dallas's Charles Haley compared Lloyd to himself. "We play on the edge of being wrong and right," Haley said.

Lloyd, who has a black belt in tae kwon do, brings a decidedly sinister slant to his job as a pass-rushing linebacker. "You have to play this game like someone just robbed you and is runinng down the street with your TV on his back." Lloyd, 31, treats quarterbacks like looters. After a hit on the Raiders' Vince Evans in 1994, when he stripped the ball and nearly Evans's hand from his arm, Lloyd said, "Nah, I wasn't trying to break his wrist, but if it breaks, that's part of the game."

"I want to hear the quarterback saying, 'Where's 95?'"

He was fined $12,000 last summer for knocking out Green Bay's Brett Favre in a preseason game with his helmet. He allegedly threatened to knock Miami's Dan Marino "into next week." When Hall of Famer Joe Namath blasted him on the air, Lloyd countered: "Who is Joe Namath? If he played in the league today, I'd probably just go hit him late and see what he did." And last January, Lloyd didn't hide his eagerness to get a good shot at Dallas's Troy Aikman.

"If you get a chance to hit the quarterback, you try to put him out of the game," he said. "No offense, but that's part of it. That's the risk you take for making $7 million a year."

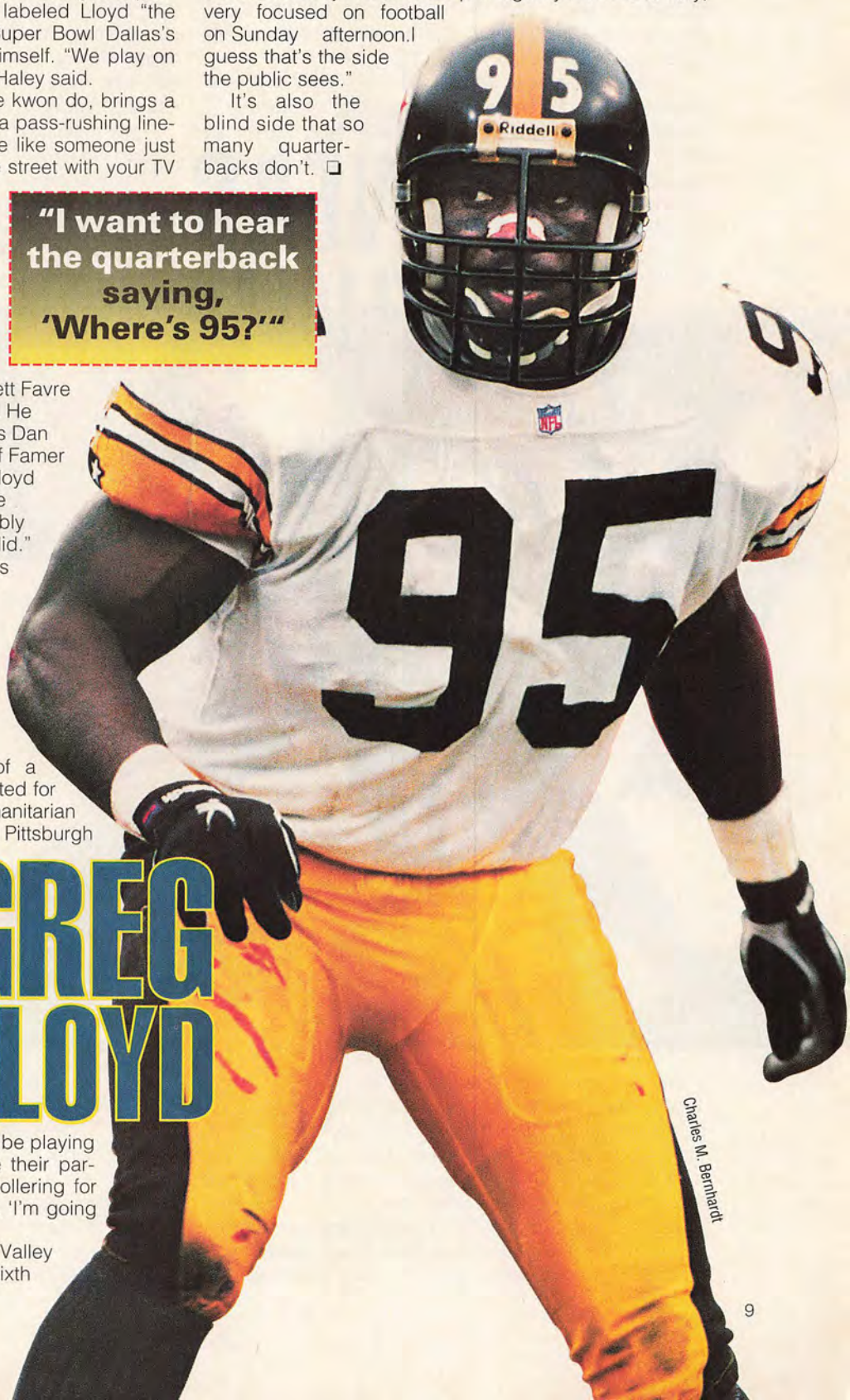
Lately, Lloyd has been more of a leader than a lunatic. He was nominated for the 1994 Byron (Whizzer) White Humanitarian Award and was named the 1994 Pittsburgh YMCA Man of the Year. But the scars are there. Lloyd never knew his father. When he was 2 years old, his mother dropped him and four siblings off at an aunt's house. She saw him again about seven years later.

"The complete family, the mom and dad, the milk and cookies? No, I got a taste of reality real fast," Lloyd said. Rage and resentment soon became his partners on the field. "I'd be playing against these kids, and they'd have their parents up in the stands rooting and hollering for them," Lloyd said. "I'd say to myself, 'I'm going to break your Johnny's nose.' "

After attending Division II Fort Valley State, Lloyd was drafted in the sixth round in 1987, the 30th linebacker picked. The banners at Three Rivers Stadium now warn, "Avoid Lloyd!" For an opposing coach, the only thing more unsettling than seeing Lloyd bearing down on his quarterback is losing track of him completely. "I want to hear the quarterback saying, 'Check 95. Where's 95?'" Lloyd said.

"Greg Lloyd is not a mean man. I think he is a warrior," Steelers defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau said. "He's a family man, involved in community projects. He does a tremendous job with underprivileged youth. He is very, very focused on football on Sunday afternoon.I guess that's the side the public sees."

It's also the blind side that so many quarterbacks don't. ❑



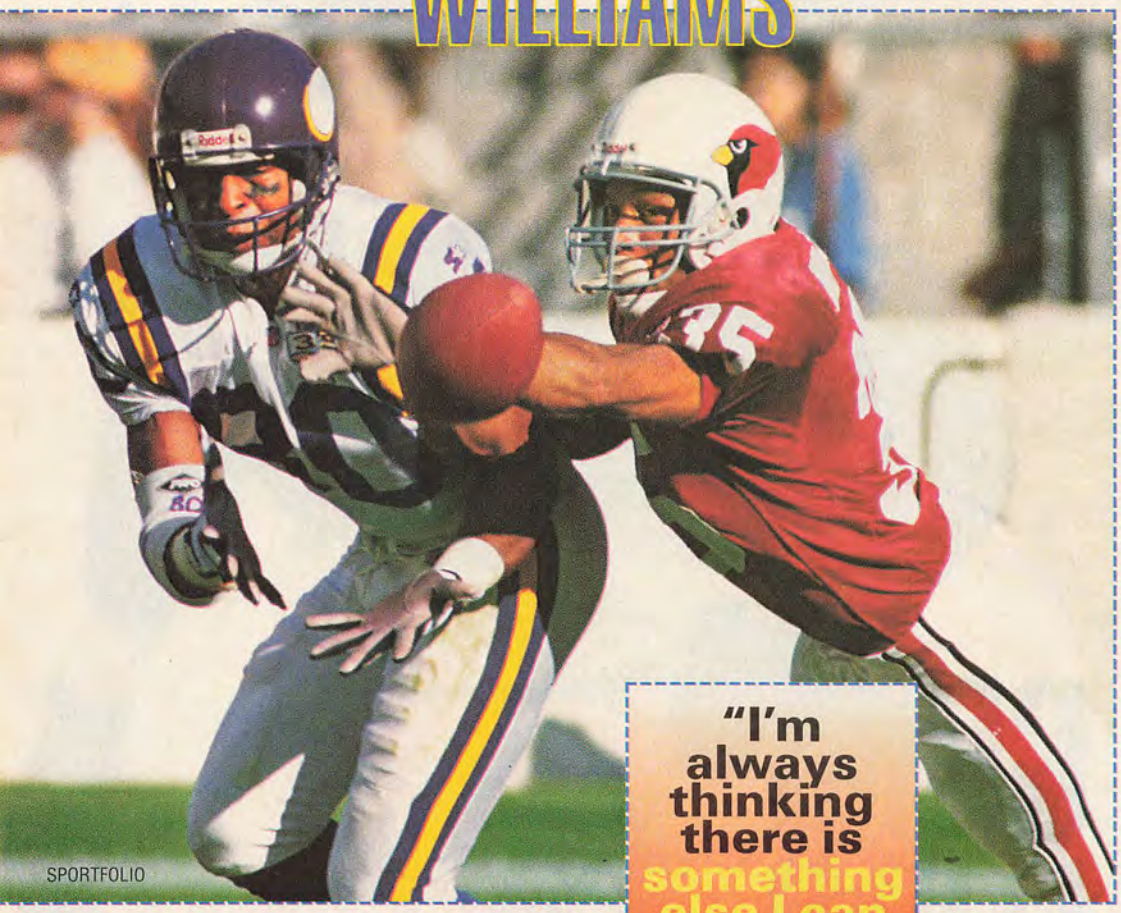
GREG LLOYD

Charles M. Bernhardt

AENEAS WILLIAMS

No one would have blamed Aeneas Williams had he left. The most coveted defensive back on the free-agent market last winter, Williams had teams poised to shovel money at him. For five seasons, he had been the property of the Arizona Cardinals, a franchise that last made the playoffs when...what, Williams was in the eighth grade? The Cardinals haven't WON a playoff game since Truman was in the White House. For Williams, finally, it was a chance to go elsewhere. To play for a winning team and to be rewarded financially beyond his dreams.

Instead, Williams re-signed with Arizona. Short of the Stockholm Syndrome—a psychological phenomenon in which hostages ultimately identify with their captors (a fair analogy to the Cardinals)—it was almost inexplicable that Williams would willingly walk back into the gulag. Was it the weather? The Phoenix culture? The fajitas? Was it, the cynics wondered, simply a sellout for $17 million over five years (with a $6 million bonus)?



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"I'm always thinking there is something else I can do."

"It's easy to jump off the boat when it looks like everything is sinking," said Williams.

Huh? Loyalty? To the NFL's version of the Los Angeles Clippers? Williams obviously isn't just a rare talent at cornerback, he's a rare fellow. The Cardinals, a promising 8-8 in 1994, plummeted to 4-12, including a 1-7 mark in the second half. They were held without a touchdown in five games and had an offense ranked 24th that coughed up 43 turnovers. The defense swooned from third to 26th. Maybe only someone like Williams, who attends a twice-weekly Bible study group during the season at 5:45 a.m., could have kept the faith in the Cardinals.

Williams has heard good things from Indianapolis players about new coach Vince Tobin, who as defensive coordinator was instrumental in turning the Colts from 4-12 doormats in 1993 to AFC contenders in 1995. "The biggest thing was he believes in putting people around him who have character," Williams said. "That's one of the foundations in building a successful team."

Over the past two seasons, the 5-9, 190-pound Williams has intercepted 15 passes. He finished fourth on the team in scoring a year ago, thanks to two interceptions for touchdowns and a 75-return of a blocked field goal. But don't confuse him with Deion Sanders, the only cornerback with a bigger contract. Williams can tackle.

"I don't think of myself as being born with gifted ability like Deion," Williams said. "I'm always thinking there is something else I can do."

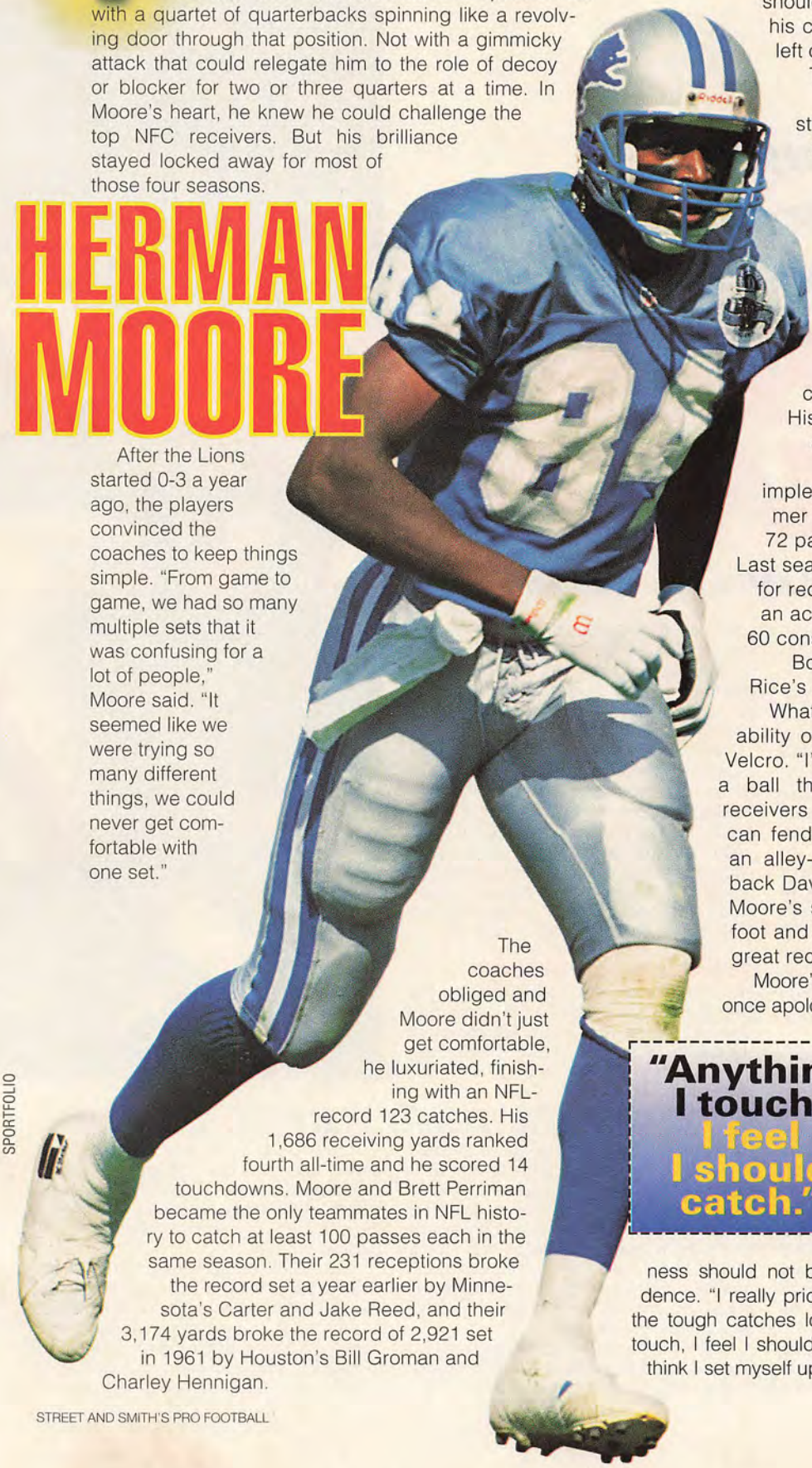
The man works at his craft, soliciting advice from veteran opponents and utilizing every video clip he can find. When ESPN taped a segment on cornerbacks, it chose Williams for a step-by-step demonstration. That's how fundamentally sound he is.

Williams had passed on an academic scholarship from Dartmouth to follow his brother, Achilles, to Southern University. He did not play football until his junior year, and went from a walk-on to the nation's interception leader. A third-round pick in 1991, he became the NFC Defensive Rookie of the Year. His value is greater, though, than the passes he picks off or bats away. In past years, the Cardinals had allowed talent such as Ken Harvey, Tim McDonald, and Jay Novacek to leave. Losing Williams, already established and respected in the community, would have been a bigger blow. Keeping him—along with defensive lineman Eric Swann—won't propel the Cardinals into the Super Bowl. But for credibilty with the fans, few teams needed Williams more than Arizona.

"There are certain guys you want to keep happy," Swann said. "If you're good to them, they'll be good to you." ❑

For most of his first four NFL seasons, it wasn't easy being Herman Moore. It wasn't easy being a 6-4, 210-pound topnotch wide receiver on the Detroit Lions. Not with Barry Sanders as the first and often last offensive options. Not with a quartet of quarterbacks spinning like a revolving door through that position. Not with a gimmicky attack that could relegate him to the role of decoy or blocker for two or three quarters at a time. In Moore's heart, he knew he could challenge the top NFC receivers. But his brilliance stayed locked away for most of those four seasons.

HERMAN MOORE



After the Lions started 0-3 a year ago, the players convinced the coaches to keep things simple. "From game to game, we had so many multiple sets that it was confusing for a lot of people," Moore said. "It seemed like we were trying so many different things, we could never get comfortable with one set."

The coaches obliged and Moore didn't just get comfortable, he luxuriated, finishing with an NFL-record 123 catches. His 1,686 receiving yards ranked fourth all-time and he scored 14 touchdowns. Moore and Brett Perriman became the only teammates in NFL history to catch at least 100 passes each in the same season. Their 231 receptions broke the record set a year earlier by Minnesota's Carter and Jake Reed, and their 3,174 yards broke the record of 2,921 set in 1961 by Houston's Bill Groman and Charley Hennigan.

Detroit won its final seven games to reach the playoffs, and was the first team ever to have a 1,500-yard receiver, a 4,000-yard passer (Scott Mitchell), and a 1,500-yard rusher (Sanders). Moore, 26, should expect to see the ball throughout his career in Detroit. He has four years left on a $13.75 million contract.

Things were not always so promising. Born in Danville, VA, Moore stayed home to play at the University of Virginia, where he found himself on the scout team, an experience he later described as the most humbling of his life. He worked his way off it and in his senior year set school records with 54 catches for 1,190 yards and 13 TDs.

The Lions picked Moore 10th in the first round in1995 but he caught just 11 passes that season. His production jumped to 51 in 1992 and 61 in '93. In 1994—benefiting from a rigorous workout program implemented by his wife, Angela, a former Virginia track star—Moore caught 72 passes for 1,173 yards and 11 TDs. Last season, he shattered the club record for receptions in the 10th game. He has an active streak of at least one catch in 60 consecutive games. He made the Pro Bowl on his own (not, as in 1994, as Rice's replacement).

What got him there? Size, the leaping ability of an NBA forward, and hands of Velcro. "I've never seen anybody latch onto a ball the way he does," said Detroit receivers coach Charlie Sanders. Moore can fend off a sticky defender and pluck an alley-oop toss. Former Lions quarterback Dave Krieg said, "One of the keys to Moore's success is he can jump off either foot and he wants the ball, just like all the great receivers."

Moore's head is the proper size, too. He once apologized for spiking the ball ferociously at an opponent's feet, even though the defensive back had yakked at him all day. He tried to become more of a team leader last season, and he sponsors an affordable football camp for inner-city youngsters each summer.

"Anything I touch, I feel I should catch."

Still, his lack of cockiness should not be mistaken for any missing confidence. "I really pride myself on going out and making the tough catches look easy," Moore said. "Anything I touch, I feel I should catch. By keeping that mentality, I think I set myself up for success." ❑

SPORTFOLIO

NFL players set their sights on the record book

OFFENSIVE CHARGE

by RICK GOSSELIN *DALLAS MORNING NEWS*

DALE ZANINE

The Miami Dolphins' Dan Marino raised the bar for National Football League quarterbacks to new heights in 1995 when he set career records for pass completions (3,913), attempts (6,531), yards (48,841), and touchdowns (352), wrestling all four marks away from Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton. Marino already holds the single-season records for passing yards (5,084) and touchdowns (48), which he set in 1984. All six of his records appear off in the distance—for now.

But with a record four quarterbacks (Green Bay's Brett Favre, Detroit's Scott Mitchell, Minnesota's Warren Moon, and Atlanta's Jeff George) throwing for 4,000 yards a year ago and 12 completing more than 60 percent of their passes, a posse has been assembled. Marino and his records are now in their cross hairs.

For the Record

Defenses became overmatched sparring partners last season as the NFL set standards for yardage and points. Passing yards exceeded the 100,000-mark in a season for the first time in history and points topped the 10,000-mark for the first time as well. Individually, Emmitt Smith scored an NFL-record 25 touchdowns for the Dallas Cowboys. Herman Moore caught a record 123 passes for the Detroit Lions, Jerry Rice amassed a record 1,848 receiving yards for the San Francisco 49ers, and Favre passed for an NFC-record 38 touchdowns for the Packers.

Nine receivers posted 100-catch efforts in 1995, almost equaling the combined number of individual 100-catch seasons (10) in the first 75 years of the NFL. Twenty-three receivers had 1,000-yard seasons, another league record. Quarterbacks as a group completed 58 percent of their passes. Ten years ago, they were completing 54 percent; 20 years ago, 52 percent.

"We made it so easy to throw that more people are throwing," said Tony Dungy, a former defensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings and now the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "The more you throw, the more yards you pile up, the more you're going to score. You aren't necessarily going to win...but you're going to make yards and score points. So more teams are throwing 61, 62, 63 percent of the time."

Passing the Word

Who can blame them? Over the years, the NFL has changed the rules to encourage passing. Teams would be crazy not to put the ball in the air. They are no longer playing the game that Dick "Night Train" Lane remembers.

Lane might have trouble surviving in today's NFL. Ability wouldn't be his problem. Lane was one of four cornerbacks selected to the NFL's 75th anniversary team in 1995. Few players in the game's history patrolled the secondary with his prowess and flair. He would have been an oversized cornerback in any era, packing 210 pounds onto his 6-2 Hall of Fame frame. His size intimidated receivers and his hands intimidated quarterbacks. He intercepted 68 passes in his 14-year career from 1952-65.

Lane's problem would be his style. He would not be allowed to play the same game in the 1990s that he played in the 1950s. Lane would be a physical corner playing what has evolved into a finesse game.

"The rules would have slapped me down," mused Lane, trying to envision himself in today's game. "I probably would have gotten 1,000 yards in penalties because I just don't believe in letting a receiver run off that line scot-free."

But receivers are allowed to run free. Blockers are allowed to clutch and grab. Quarterbacks are allowed to ground the ball to avoid a hit. The game has changed dramatically since the 1960s, when defense did indeed win championships. Rule changes have chipped away at that defensive superi-

ority, culminated by an unprecedented offensive explosion in 1995. That came as no surprise to those on the inside.

"All the rules have been changed to make it an offensive show," said Ray Rhodes, a former defensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers and now the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. "Protecting the quarterback. Line play. Moving the kickoff back to the 30—every rule has been established for the offensive team to be more explosive and score more points. You entertain with offense and win with defense. But right now the defenses are victims. They're just strapped."

On the Defensive

When the AFL and NFL merged in 1970, defenses were dominant. Games were controlled by Minnesota's Purple People Eaters, Miami's No Names, the Dallas Doomsday, and, finally, Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain. In 1971, there was only one 1,000-yard receiver in the 26-team league: Otis Taylor of the Kansas City Chiefs. He was huge by wide-receiver standards for his day at 6-2, 215—and he needed every bit of that bulk to survive the weekly pummeling he took from cornerbacks.

"All the guys played the bump-and-run then," Taylor said. "They attacked the receiver as he left the line. There wasn't a five-yard rule. Truth be known, there weren't any rules. It was pretty physical out there."

But in 1974, the NFL began a push to promote offense. The league implemented a one-chuck rule after three yards. No longer could cornerbacks mug receivers up and down the field. In 1977, the league tightened up coverage even further, limiting defenders to just one bump anywhere on the field. The NFL also took measures to slow down the pass rush by outlawing the head slap by defenders.

In 1978, the NFL altered another rule and allowed blockers to extend their arms and

OFFENSIVE CHARGE

open their hands when engaging pass rushers. The league also cracked down on cornerbacks again, implementing the five-yard rule. That restricted their one bump on receivers to within five yards of the line of scrimmage. In 1984, a new rule allowed offensive linemen to run-block with their arms extended. By 1987, the rule was enhanced to allow offensive players to block with extended arms anywhere on the field.

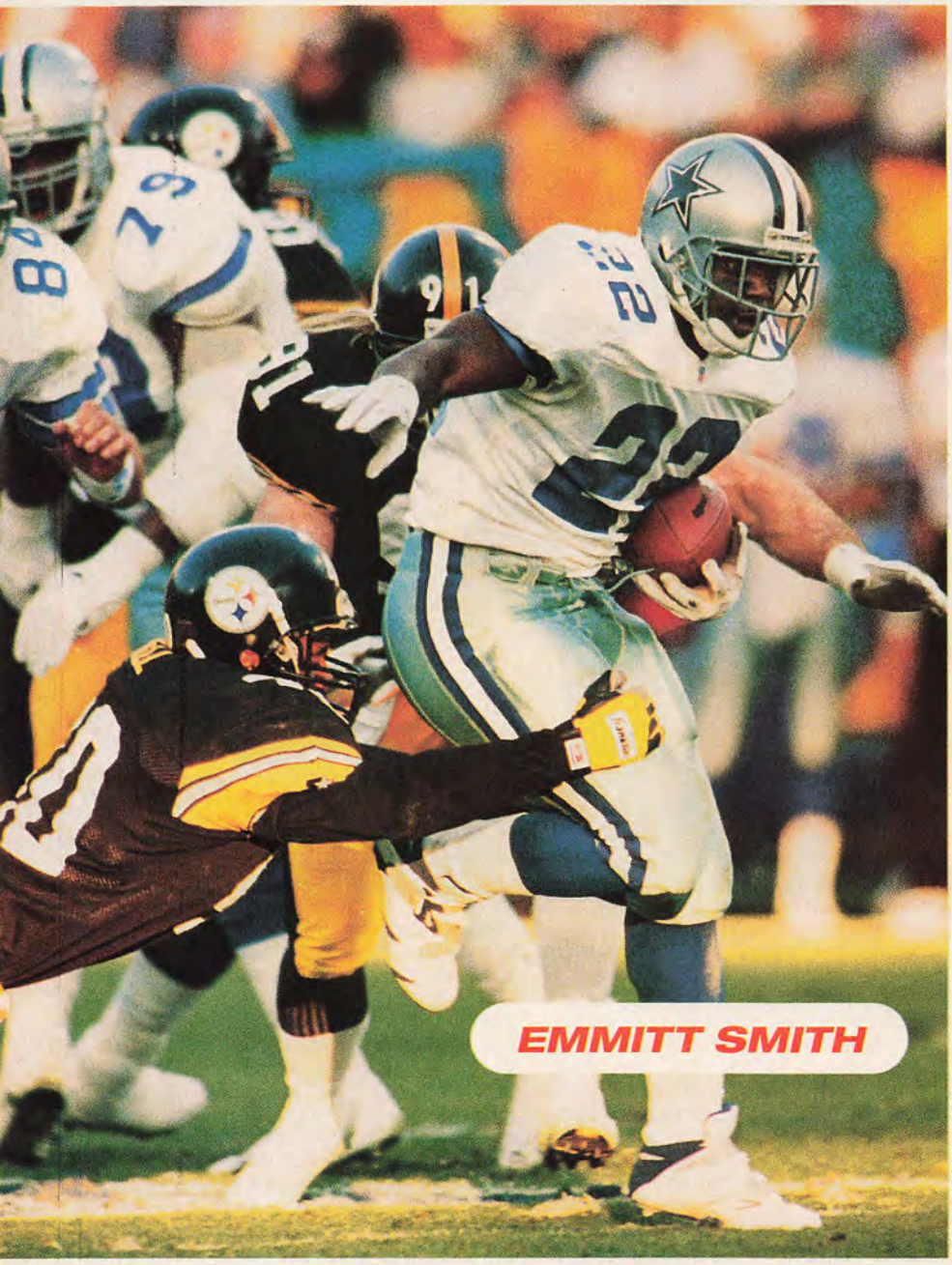
In 1988, the NFL tinkered with the pass-interference rule, preventing defenders from cutting off receivers and impeding their progress to the ball. In 1993, intentional grounding was legalized when a quarterback was flushed from the pocket. In 1994, the league allowed offensive tackles to take a deeper set on passing downs. That extra foot in the backfield helped slow down the outside speed rushers, giving quarterbacks more time to throw to receivers who were running untouched through the secondary.

That's Entertainment

The bottom line? Offense sells. And right now the NFL is selling. For the seventh consecutive year, the league set an attendance record. More than 19 million fans passed through the turnstiles on their way to the offensive circus. Television ratings also are soaring. The largest TV audience in history, 138.5 million, watched the Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XXX. So the game's popularity and offensive football barrel along on parallel tracks toward the same destination—prosperity. The NFL is more than a sport. It is entertainment.

"I understand the business of football," Washington's Pro Bowl cornerback Darrell Green said. "I'm like everyone else—I'd rather see Michael Jordan slam dunk it than steal it. He made the all-offense and all-defense teams in the NBA. But really, which one do you want to see for your dollar? Do you want to see him score 40...or do you want to see [Dennis] Rodman get 15 rebounds? What Rodman does is great. But given a choice, I'd rather see Michael Jordan make a double-tomahawk, one-handed dunk from the free throw line.

"Pro sports is all about what sells tickets. You've got to have points and scoring. As a player, I understand the importance of the offense being successful for the business of our game."



EMMITT SMITH

MIKE POWELL/ALLSPORT USA

Cutting Corners

But the price of success has handcuffed the defense, especially cornerbacks. As the game became less physical on the flank, NFL defenses went to the smaller corners. If you couldn't hit the receivers any more, then you'd better be able to run with them. So undersized speed merchants like Green, Terry McDaniel, Frank Minnifield, and Donnell Woolford became the state-of-the-art, Pro Bowl cornerbacks in the 1980s and early '90s.

But a reverse trend has developed on offense. As the cornerbacks grew smaller, the receivers grew bigger. The New York Jets drafted Al Toon (6-4) and the 49ers Jerry Rice (6-2) in 1985. Mike Sherrard came along in 1986, Carter in '87, and Irvin in '88. All were in the 6-2 range. Then came Herman Moore, Alvin Harper, and Jake Reed in 1991. All were 6-3. The 49ers drafted J.J. Stokes (6-4) in 1995.

Now every team has a big receiver, some even two and three of them. When the Cowboys overtook the Redskins for division, conference, and league superiority in 1992, they capitalized on size mismatches on the flank with two wideouts over 6-2 (Irvin and Harper) against a pair of 5-8 corners (Green and Martin Mayhew).

NFL receivers are using that growth spurt to their advantage. There is more pushing and shoving going on by offensive players than ever before. And why not? If there is enough contact to draw a penalty flag, 80 percent of the time it goes against the defense. Last season there were 326 pass interference calls, with only 62 going against the offense. And defensive pass interference remains the most costly infraction in the book, with the penalty assessed at the spot of the foul. So 20-, 30- and 40-yard penalties are not uncommon. Because of that, defensive players almost have to shy away from downfield contact. But not offensive players. That makes Lane wince.

"In the Super Bowl, Michael Irvin was pushing and holding people, using his hands," Lane said. "We were taught to break their hands if they put them on you. He'd have to sit out a couple weeks because he'd end up with a broken hand or elbow. That would keep his hands off you."

continued

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Zone Defense

But the rules won't let a cornerback chuck a wideout downfield, much less break his hands. That has led to a philosophical change by defensive coaches. Man-to-man coverage—the backbone of defenses in the 1960s, when Lane, Herb Adderley, and Willie Brown were mounting Hall of Fame portfolios—is now in dry dock.

"In the early days, it was Roy Green and Darrell Green one-on-one," Darrell Green said. "Mike Quick and Darrell Green one-on-one. Tony Hill and Darrell Green. Jerry Rice. Mark Duper. Man-on-man. One-on-one. You-against-me. But you can't get those one-on-one battles any more. The offenses won't give them to you. The rules have made us become a zone game."

Cornerbacks have been asked to sit back in zones and keep the play in front of them. At all costs, don't give up the big play. So more and more offenses are adopting the philosophy of Bill Walsh. That is, take what the defense gives you. Throw the slant, the hook, the quick out. Don't force anything. That seven-yard hook to a 6-3 receiver in front of a 5-9 cornerback has become a high-percentage pass—and more and more teams are taking it. That's why pass attempts are escalating and receiving records are falling. The short passing game is replacing the running game as a means of ball and clock control.

"We had these discussions at Minnesota last year," Dungy said. "Why should we run the ball for a 3.9-yard average when every time I throw, my average is 6.1, 6.2 [yards]? If my objective is to move the ball and score, why shouldn't I throw every play? It's common sense."

So the Vikings threw the ball 642 times in 1995. They were one of six teams with 600 pass attempts (up from one in 1990). Five of those teams had 100-catch receivers. Everyone on offense is seeing and catching more balls. Brett Perriman, the second receiver on the Lions, caught 108 passes last season, and Bert Emanuel, the third receiver on the Atlanta Falcons, caught 74. Even a running back caught 100 passes for the first time in NFL history when Larry Centers snagged 101 for the Arizona Cardinals.

Moore, who broke the NFL receiving record by one catch and the Detroit club mark by a whopping 46, admits his '95 season has forced him to alter his goals. When he arrived in the NFL in 1991, he aspired to be an 80-catch, 1,000-yard receiver. He figured that would make him a Pro Bowler and earn him a spot in the elite. But not any more.

"The standard has changed," Moore said. "You need 100 catches and 1,500 yards to set yourself apart. That's where the bar is now. When you get there, you're in a whole 'nother category."

That's the way the NFL wants it. Ask any cornerback. ❑

ON THE RECORD

Baseball has always been a game of numbers, football a game of names.

Players forge an identity with their statistics. Babe Ruth, 60 home runs. Roger Maris, 61 homers. Joe DiMaggio, 56-game hitting streak. Cy Young, 500 victories. Nolan Ryan, 5,000 strikeouts. There is a romanticism about the statistical nature of baseball that does not exist in football.

"Baseball is a journey," said Seymour Siwoff, the president of Elias Sports Bureau, the official statistician of Major League Baseball and the NFL. "In football, every Sunday is a junior Super Bowl. The game means so much, each win means so much. If you're a die-hard fan, if your team loses, the week is terrible for you.

"You don't find that in baseball. If you lose, there's always tomorrow. In football, it's the single event. So each week is enormous. The game is what's important."

When Cal Ripken finally caught Lou Gehrig last September, climaxing a 13-year chase of the Iron Horse by playing in his record 2,131st consecutive game, the sport took a back seat to the player. Time was suspended by achievement. No one remembers if the Orioles won or lost.

Dan Marino set NFL career passing marks in four different games last fall, taking from Fran Tarkenton [below] the records for completions, attempts, yards, and touchdowns. But the number that stands out in Marino's season was the 9-7 record by the Dolphins that wound up costing Don Shula his job—not any of Marino's record-setting statistics.

Football does have its share of magical numbers. Marino's 48 touchdown passes in 1984. Eric Dickerson's 2,105 rushing yards in 1984. Even Dick "Night Train" Lane's 14 interceptions in 1952. But the records have always been secondary in football.

"In football, we remember the names," Siwoff said. "Does anyone who follows football not know the name of Jim Brown? Or Joe Montana? That's what's indelible in our mind. Not their records."

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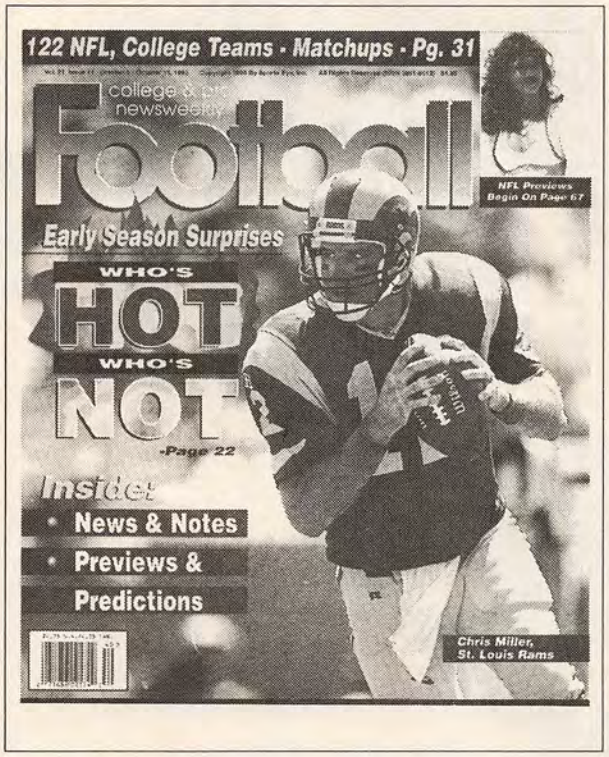

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By The Numbers

A Revealing Look at the NFL Final Statistics

by STATS Inc.

Payton Pace

Emmitt Smith of the Cowboys is comparable in size and demeanor to Walter Payton, and many people have speculated that he might eventually have a chance to surpass Payton's amazing record of 16,726 career rushing yards. Smith has played 93 regular-season NFL games, and it's useful to compare his career stats with Payton's through the same number of games. As it turned out, three other players—Jim Brown, Eric Dickerson, and Barry Sanders—had amassed more rushing yardage than either Payton OR Smith through their first 93 contests. Here are the top five through their first 93 games:

Payton's and Smith's numbers are very similar, with their rushing averages virtually identical (4.46 for Emmitt, 4.45 for Walter). Smith is about 300 yards ahead of Payton at this point of their respective careers. . .but then, Eric Dickerson was much further ahead of Payton than that, and Dickerson finished his career more than 3,000 yards short of Payton's total. As with Henry Aaron in baseball, what set Payton apart is not what he did in his early years, but how long he kept going. Payton went on to play 101 more games after his 93rd game, and gain over 8,000 additional yards.

So in order to catch Payton, Smith will need to keep gaining big yardage into at least his early 30s. He also has to contend with an active rival for the record: Sanders, who's a year older than Smith and nearly 1,200 career yards ahead of him. It'll be fascinating to watch those two as they try to reach Payton's place.

Player	Years	Att	Yds	Avg	TD
Eric Dickerson	1983-89	2198	10217	4.65	76
Jim Brown	1957-64	1859	9594	5.16	85
Barry Sanders	1989-95	1838	8986	4.89	63
Emmitt Smith	1990-95	2007	8956	4.46	96
Walter Payton	1975-81	1949	8673	4.45	67

Jonathan Daniel/ALLSPORT

Why Do the Chiefs Keep On Winning?

Although Marty Schottenheimer's Chiefs continue to come up short in the playoffs, they still have a unique distinction: They are the only team to make the postseason each year since 1990. Turnovers have a lot to do with that, and the Chiefs have been winning the turnover war throughout the decade. Here's a list of the teams with the greatest differential between takeaways and giveaways over the last six seasons (1990-95):

That differential of 90 averages out to 15 extra possessions for Kansas City each season since 1990, or about one per game. The Chiefs did nothing to hurt their reputation in this area last season, finishing with an NFL-best differential of +12 (33 takeaways, 21 giveaways).

Team	Takeaways	Giveaways	Differential
Kansas City	227	137	+90
Pittsburgh	217	171	+46
New York Giants	172	130	+42
Minnesota	211	182	+29
New York Jets	214	186	+28
Philadelphia	223	195	+28

Who Makes the Most Out of a Mistake?

On just about every network broadcast of an NFL game, the production crew will flash a graphic on the screen involving turnovers. The first column will show the number of turnovers each team has committed in the game, while the second column shows the number of points, if any, those turnovers led to. It's that second column that we want to put under the microscope for the '95 season. Here are the 1995 team leaders in most points off opponents' turnovers.

Takeaway points refer to the total offensive and defensive points scored as a direct result of opponents' turnovers. The Vikings, who have been one of the most opportunistic defenses in the league the past four seasons under Tony Dungy, took the crown for the second season in a row. But it was Minnesota's offense that really cashed in when given a chance in '95; the Vikings' defense scored just three touchdowns this past season after tallying seven in '94. The Broncos—a team which did not even make this list—were actually the most productive team per takeaway, averaging 4.7 points every time they forced a turnover. The bad news for Denver was that the team forced just 21 turnovers.

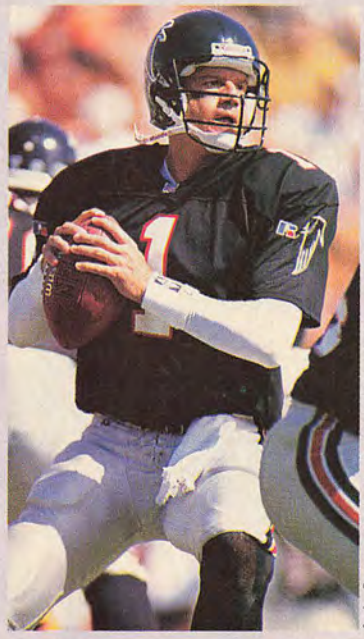
	Takeaways	Pts Off TO
Vikings	40	149
Raiders	33	135
Dolphins	30	130
49ers	34	122
Rams	36	120
Cardinals	42	113
Eagles	38	111
Steelers	34	109
Jets	34	108
Panthers	37	105

Michael Yelman/Active Images, Inc.

Which Quarterbacks Produce the Most Big Plays?

There's nothing in football quite like a long pass which moves a club well downfield. We keep a stat called "big-play passes," or pass plays which gain 25 or more yards. Here are the 1995 leaders:

It's no surprise that the Packers' Brett Favre, the NFL's Most Valuable Player, led the league with 36 big-play passes last season. But a close second was Jeff George (below) of the Falcons, the only QB to produce at least 30 big plays in both 1994 and '95. The Dolphins' Dan Marino, the 1994 leader with 37 big plays, dropped out of the top 10 with 25 a year ago—the same total recorded by Troy Aikman of the Cowboys. And the 49ers' Steve Young, the runner-up to Marino with 33 big plays in 1994, had only 20 in '95.



David L. Greene/David Stuka Photography

Quarterback	Big Plays
Brett Favre	36
Jeff George	35
Warren Moon	30
Scott Mitchell	30
John Elway	29
Jim Kelly	28
Dave Krieg	28
Jim Everett	28
Jeff Blake	27
Neil O'Donnell	26

Rick Stewart/ALLSPORT

Toughest to Burn

Player	Targeted	Caught	Pct
Deion Sanders	39.0	3.0	33.3
George Teague	47.0	19.5	41.5
Larry Brown	76.0	32.0	42.1
Otis Smith	79.0	34.0	43.0
Brent Alexander	41.5	8.0	43.4
Tyrone Braxton	57.0	25.0	43.9
Brock Marion	46.5	20.5	44.1
Darryll Lewis	92.0	41.0	44.6
Bobby Taylor	78.0	35.0	44.9
Rod Smith	58.5	26.5	45.3

(minimum 30 times targeted)

Easiest To Burn

Player	Targeted	Caught	Pct
Maurice Hurst	39.0	30.0	76.9
Mike Prior	34.0	26.0	76.5
Dwayne Joseph	35.5	26.5	74.6
Keith Taylor	30.0	22.0	73.3
Vernon Lewis	35.5	26.0	73.2
Eric Allen	52.0	36.0	69.2
Darnell Walker	56.0	38.5	68.8
Vencie Glenn	32.0	22.0	68.8
Darren Woodson	57.5	39.5	68.7
Myron Guyton	47.5	32.5	68.4

(A player is credited with 0.5 Targeted Passes or Passes Caught when he is part of a defending double-coverage team.)

Which Defenders Are The Toughest (And Easiest) To Burn?

Deion Sanders (above) may burn you up if you're not a Dallas (or Deion) fan, but it's awfully tough to burn HIM. While covering the opposing offense's targeted receiver, Sanders permitted the lowest percentage of completions of all of the league's cornerbacks and safeties. In other words, he was the toughest in the league to "burn." With three out of the top seven defenders on the list, it's easy to see why the Cowboys had such an effective pass defense last year.

Only 5-10, Patriot cornerback Maurice Hurst came up short last year in more ways than one. Quarterbacks consistently zipped the ball past his outstretched fingertips and into the hands of a waiting receiver. If this keeps up, Hurst may need to buy lifts for his shoes.

Mitchell B. Reibel/Sports Photo Masters, inc.

Which Quarterbacks Are the Best In the Red Zone?

Driving your team up and down the field is one thing, but getting the ball in the end zone is something else entirely. Some quarterbacks have a knack for lighting up a short field, but others can find it to be a monumental challenge. Here are last season's leaders in quarterback rating inside the opponent's 20-yard line (minimum 30 pass attempts):

The five quarterbacks above combined to throw 88 touchdown passes in the red zone and just seven interceptions. Between **Troy Aikman** (last season's leader) and Emmitt Smith, it's easy to see how the Cowboys scored 56 times in 63 total trips inside the 20-yard line.

Player	Com-Att	Yds	TD	Int	Rating
Troy Aikman	31-55	222	10	0	105.4
Brett Favre	45-68	400	31	3	102.9
Warren Moon	40-67	239	22	1	100.1
Stan Humphries	20-36	184	9	1	97.7
Steve Bono	38-64	297	16	2	97.5
NFL Average					***80.4***

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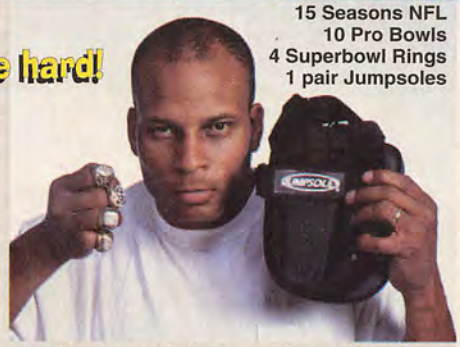

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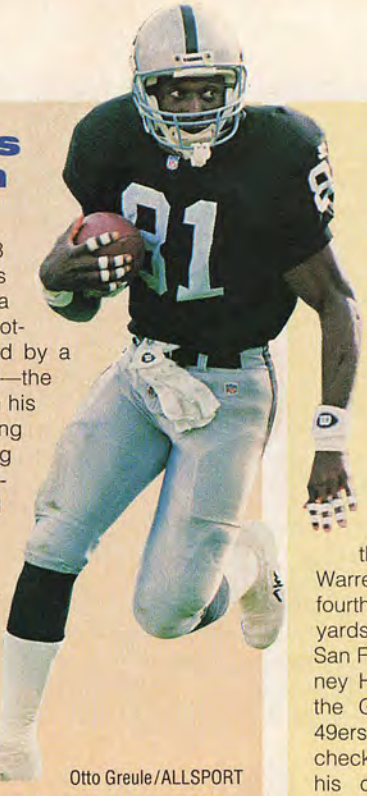
Which Receivers Make Their Own Big Plays?

In a season that saw an amazing 23 1,000-yard receivers, the words "Yards After Catch" (YAC) quickly a became common phrase among football fans. YAC are the yards gained by a receiver AFTER he catches the ball—the product of his own efforts rather than his quarterback's arm. En route to racking up an NFL-record 1,848 receiving yards last season, Jerry Rice collected 692 of the "YAC" variety to lead the NFL.

Player	YAC
Jerry Rice	692
Eric Metcalf	582
Herman Moore	560
Isaac Bruce	556
Tim Brown	534



Otto Greule/ALLSPORT

But what about looking at YAC on a per-catch basis rather than for an entire season? Do the same names show up? Below are the 1995's top five wide receivers based on YAC per "YAC reception." A YAC reception is simply any catch where a receiver had at least one yard after the catch.

YAC	Rec	YAC	Avg
Courtney Hawkins	4	334	8.15
Willie Green	45	304	6.76
Qadry Ismail	32	203	6.34
Ernie Mills	34	215	6.32
Tim Brown	85	534	6.28

(minimum 30 YAC receptions)

Only Tim Brown (above) of the Raiders found his name on both lists, but he still finds himself well behind Tampa Bay's Courtney Hawkins, who racked up an amazing 8.15 YAC for every catch he made.

Who Are the Most Durable Runners?

You can use any number of yardsticks to measure a running back's durability, but one useful method is to look at the runners who produce the best averages AFTER they've already carried the ball 20 times in a game. The following chart shows the backs with the best rushing averages in the NFL after their 20th carry of a game last year.

Player	Att	Yds	Avg
Chris Warren	37	168	4.5
Rodney Hampton	36	157	4.4
Terry Allen	49	203	4.1
Curtis Martin	82	328	4.0
Thurman Thomas	39	155	4.0
Errict Rhett	43	161	3.7
Emmitt Smith	61	219	3.6
Aaron Hayden	24	76	3.2
Ricky Watters	45	128	2.8
Edgar Bennett	37	4	2.5

(minimum 20 attempts)

Who's who of some of the best power runners in the league, the kind who can take advantage of tiring defenses as the game goes on. Chris Warren also led the league in fourth quarter/-overtime rushing yards (405). It's easy to see why San Francisco tried to sign Rodney Hampton (right)—and why the Giants had to match the 49ers' offer to retain him. And check out Curtis Martin; 82 of his carries this past season came after his 20th carry of a game. Not bad for a guy whose size and durability were big question marks coming out of college.

It's sometimes said about a runner that he "gets stronger as the game goes on," but as you can see, few runners boast impressive averages once they've carried the ball this many times. On the other hand, they're usually going against defenses stacked against the run by this point of a game, and even a 3.5-yard average will help a club

Al Messerschmidt

How Will Jimmy Johnson Do In Miami?

Jimmy Johnson's return to Florida seems to be a perfect fit. After-winning a national championship at the University of Miami, Johnson took the Cowboys from a 1-15 record to Super Bowl glory in just four seasons. But do those championship rings mean anything once the Dolphins kick off 1996? History says no.

Prior to Johnson, there have been nine coaches in NFL history who have taken a team to a Super Bowl before eventually moving on to another job. None has been able to find success with a second franchise.

Coach	Team	G	Pct	Team	G	Pct
Vince Lombardi	Packers	132	.758	Redskins	14	.571
John Rauch	Raiders	46	.772	Bills	28	.268
Hank Stram	Chiefs	218	.615	Saints	28	.250
Don McCafferty	Colts	38	.697	Lions	14	.464
Tom Flores	Raiders	47	.619	Seahawks	48	.292
Forrest Gregg	Bengals	61	.557	Packers	63	.405
Bill Parcells	Giants	138	.620	Patriots	49	.429
Dan Reeves	Broncos	197	.596	Giants	50	.520
Sam Wyche	Bengals	132	.485	Buccaneers	64	.359
TOTAL		1109	.620		358	.387

J.C. Ridley

Of the coaches who stayed more than one season with their second franchise, only New York's Dan Reeves has a winning record. Johnson may very well take the Dolphins to the Super Bowl, but he'll have to buck history to get it done.

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Which Receivers Have the Surest Hands?

A receiver's goal at the start of each game is to catch every pass he can get his hands on. Such a goal over the course of an entire game is commendable, but how many receivers can claim that they didn't miss a pass all year? STATS Inc. reporters keep track of both dropped passes and the number of balls they deem catchable, and only one receiver posted a perfect record last year: Mike Sherrard (left). Here's the top 10 in percentage of passes caught:

Player	Catchable Passes	Passes Dropped	% Caught
Mike Sherrard	44	0	100.0
Harvey Williams	55	1	98.2
Irv Smith	46	1	97.8
Ed McCaffrey	40	1	97.5
J.J. Stokes	39	1	97.4
Larry Centers	104	3	97.1
Brent Jones	62	2	96.8
Derek Loville	90	3	96.7
Michael Irvin	115	4	96.5
Bill Brooks	55	2	96.4

Such sure-handedness would be a monumental feat for just about anyone else, but it's really nothing new for Sherrard—the year before, he dropped just two passes.

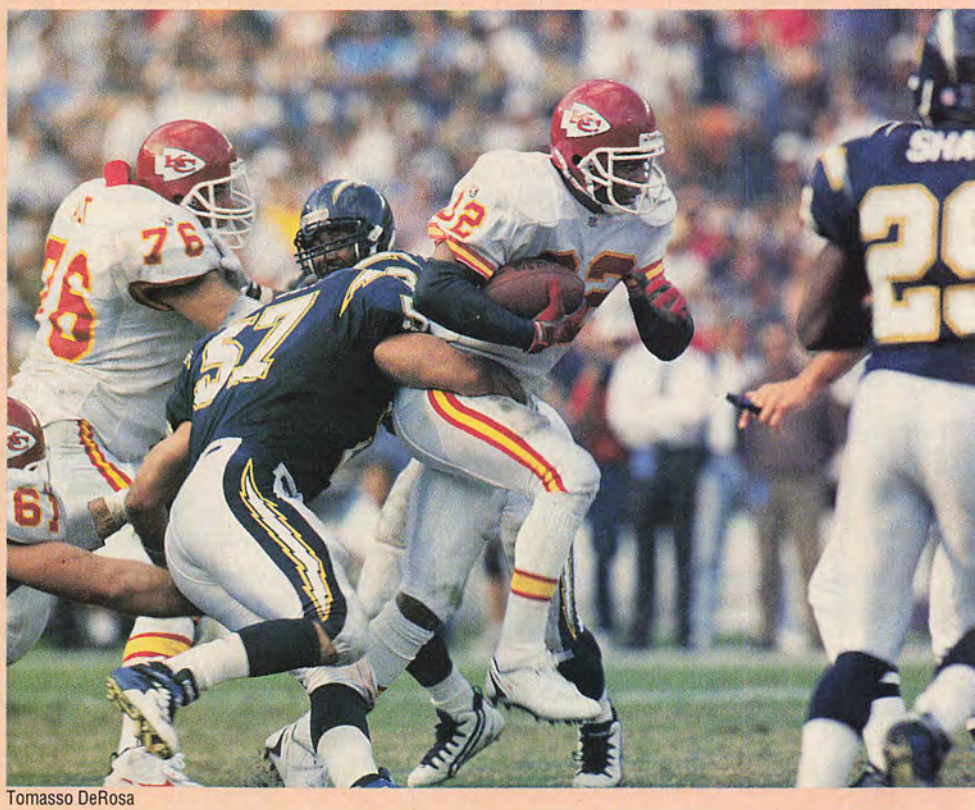
Who Can Get That First Down?

One of last season's most memorable moments came in Philadelphia, when Emmitt Smith and the Cowboys came up short on a crucial 4th-and-1 late against the Eagles. Memories of that game raise an interesting question: Who ARE the NFL's best short-yardage runners? Here are the NFL leaders over the last three seasons in 3rd-and-short (three yards or less) conversions. As the data shows, Smith's failure in Philadelphia was the exception rather than the rule.

Player	Carries	1st Downs	Pct
Marcus Allen	28	25	89.3
Emmitt Smith	35	29	82.9
Natrone Means	23	19	82.6
Jerome Bettis	22	18	81.8
Rodney Hampton	20	15	75.0

(minimum 20 carries)

Marcus Allen (right) is the only runner ahead of Smith, having made a first down on all but three of his 28 attempts. Size often helps considerably in making a first down, as the presence of wide-bodies Natrone Means and Jerome Bettis indicates. ❑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Jim Brown–White–Champion	225.00
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Dick Butkus–Navy–Wilson	250.00
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Kerry Collins–Dark–Panthers	225.00
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CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT

GRADING THE TEAMS

by FRANK LITSKY *NEW YORK TIMES*

It all sounds so simple. In the National Football League's annual draft, the best player is chosen first, the next best player second, and so forth.

Don't count on it. Almost every NFL team ranked Lawrence Phillips, the Nebraska running back, as the best player in the 1996 draft. At 220 pounds, he ran 40 yards in 4.54 seconds with power and flair. He could find a hole and barrel through it. He could carry the ball all day.

So why did the first five teams pass on Phillips before the St. Louis Rams scooped him up? The answer was Phillips's off-the-field troubles, and it illustrated the crapshoot aspect of the draft. You may know what your draftee can do on the field, but has he been or will he be a good citizen? He does not have to win a good-guy award, but will be stay out of trouble? Phillips did not stay trouble-free in college. When he pleaded no contest to assaulting a former girlfriend, a court put him on probation. The Nebraska team suspended him for six games.

Then came the draft, which started this way:

1. New York Jets They could have used a power runner, but they are too conservative an organization for such a controversial player. They took WR Keyshawn Johnson of USC.

2. Jacksonville Jaguars They had runners, needed defense badly, and tapped OLB Kevin Hardy of Illinois.

3. Arizona Cardinals They needed a runner. They also needed a pass rusher and chose DE Simeon Rice of Illinois.

4. Baltimore Ravens The former Cleveland Browns did not want to offend their conservative new home, where the big sports hero is Cal Ripken. They took OT Jonathan Ogden of UCLA.

5. New York Giants More conservative than the Jets, and they also had running backs, so they drafted DE Cedric Jones of Oklahoma.

6. St. Louis Rams Finally, a team willing to take a chance on Phillips. As owner Georgia Frontiere said coldly, "If it helps our team, that's all I care about." And perhaps former quarterback and current TV analyst Joe Theismann put it best when he said, "This is not a league of angels."

Phillips was the best in a strong group of running backs, although two others also slipped: Leeland McElroy of Texas A&M to the Cardinals in the second round and Karim Abdul-Jabbar of UCLA to the Miami Dolphins in the third.

The strongest position in the draft was wide receiver, with five chosen in the first round and seven in the first 34 picks. Of the 254 players drafted, only eight were quarterbacks, with none in the first round, only one in the second, and none in the third.

Who fared the best and who did the worst in the draft? It takes about three years to assess a draft, but who can wait? So here is a quick analysis of this year's draft and why some teams did what they did.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

A sound draft that might have been even better had they taken OT Jonathan Ogden rather than DE Simeon Rice of Illinois with the third choice overall. But Rice was the best pass rusher on the board, even though he was double-teamed so much last year. "I think Simeon Rice can stop the run," says Vince Tobin, the Cards' new coach. "He thinks he can." Rice makes sense because DT Eric Swann wanted out and DE Clyde Simmons is well-worn at 32. Boomer Esiason, the new quarterback, may not have Ogden, but OT Lomas Brown, a quality free-agent addition, will help. So will RB Leeland McElroy of Texas A&M, a Thurman Thomas clone and second-round steal, and TE Johnny McWilliams of USC, a third-round bargain. But the secondary still needs help.

(GRADE: B+)

ATLANTA FALCONS

Lousy no matter how the Falcons try to rationalize it. The No. 1 pick was part of last year's deal that brought QB Jeff George, who wants a lot more money. Two days before the draft, No. 2 went to Seattle for S Patrick Bates, who sat out last season because he could not get more playing time. On the third round, with the 84th pick overall, the Falcons finally drafted someone: DT Shannon Brown of Alabama, intense and strong but not durable. The fourth round produced RB Richard Huntley of Winston-Salem, who is good but not the breakaway runner the Falcons wanted, and CB Juran Bolden who played in Canada last year after a spell at Mississippi Delta Junior College.

(GRADE: C-)

BALTIMORE RAVENS

A smart, productive draft for the former Cleveland Browns. With the fourth pick overall, they passed up RB Lawrence Phillips and took squeaky clean OT Jonathan Ogden of UCLA, the best prospect at his position since Anthony Munoz in 1980. Coach Ted Marchibroda of the Ravens called Ogden "probably the best athlete in the draft." He had better be because for now he will play guard, a strange decision. Later in the first round came ILB Ray Lewis of Miami, a playmaker for an aging linebacker corps. The Cowboys loved him. Second-round DB DeRon Jenkins of Tennessee is a good cover man and fifth-round WR Jermaine Lewis of Maryland can return punts. But not a badly needed running back in the bunch.

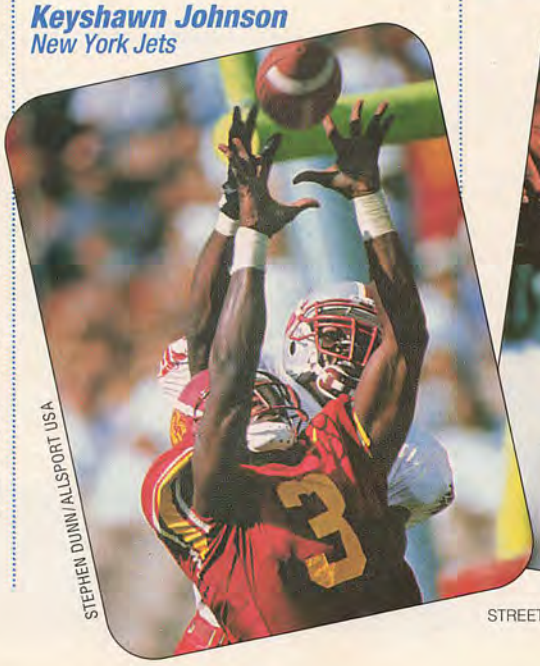
GRADE: B)

BUFFALO BILLS

Much depends on whether the first choice, WR Eric Moulds of Mississippi State, will change his ways. The Bills needed receivers badly because at the time they did not know if the unhappy Andre Reed and Bill Brooks would return. They picked the talented but undisciplined Moulds, pegged by some personnel people as moody, selfish, and inconsistent. One coach said he wouldn't take him on the last round. But Moulds is strong, and he averaged 28.8 yards on kickoff returns. Second-round DE Gabe Northern of LSU was a reach. Sleeper: Sixth-round OG/C Dusty Zeigler of Notre Dame. For what it's worth, six of the Bills' 10 draftees are/were basketball players.

GRADE: B)

Keyshawn Johnson
New York Jets



STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT USA

Leeland McElroy
Arizona Cardinals

AL BELLO/ALLSPORT USA

CAROLINA PANTHERS

A good draft that found a running back to take the heat of QB Kerry Collins. With the eighth pick overall, the Panthers passed on Eddie George and Leeland McElroy and tapped Tim Biakabutuka of Michigan, who is fast and shifty and hits the hole hard. He is a stranger to pass catching, but bright enough to master anything. He was born in Zaire, moved with his family to Montreal as a youngster, and learned English from watching Bugs Bunny and other TV cartoons. The Panthers found a needed receiver in second-rounder Muhsin Muhammad of Michigan State, who has size, speed, and a quick move after the catch. Fourth-round OT Norberto Garrido of USC is a sometimes lazy load as a pass blocker. **(GRADE: B+)**

CHICAGO BEARS

A nice draft because the needs were filled with quality players. In a division where Herman Moore, Cris Carter, and Alvin Harper destroy cornerbacks, the Bears traded up to get first-round CB Walt Harris of Mississippi State to complement Donnell Woolford. Harris can also play safety. To replace Jeff Graham, who left as a free agent, they picked up second-rounder Bobby Engram, a big-play receiver and kick returner from Penn State. Sleeper: Fifth-round OG Chris Villarrial of Indiana (PA), a strongman who also plays center. Only a tight end was missing. **(GRADE: B+)**

CINCINNATI BENGALS

A neat job of getting players who will produce for years, especially for the major need: the offensive line. The Bengals targeted OT Willie Anderson (size-19 shoe) of Auburn, the best offensive linemen in the draft after Jonathan Odgen, and got him on the first round. He's only 20 and still learning, but he can learn this year behind Joe Walter. Second-rounder Marco Battaglia of Rutgers is a fine receiver and natural H-back and should help an offense that will be potent with healthy RB Ki-Jana Carter. Sleeper: Fifth-round FS Greg Myers of Colorado State, smart and productive off the field (3.7 GPA in pre-med) and on. **(GRADE: B+)**

John Mobley
Denver Broncos

JC RIDLEY

DALLAS COWBOYS

A weird draft for the Super Bowl champions. The priority was getting help for the defensive line because four of the eight players in the rotation left in free agency. But the Cowboys traded out of the first round and then took second-round DE Kavika Pittman of McNeese State. Who? He's athletic (a 6-11 high jumper and basketball player in high school), but he's as much of a project as first-round DE Shante Carver two years ago. With DE Charles Haley and DT Tony Tolbert returning from surgery, Pittman must produce quickly. Later in the second round came ILB Randall Godfrey of Georgia, who will get quick playing time. For a team worried about Michael Irvin's off-field problems, third-round WR Stepfret Williams of Northeast Louisiana was a logical pick. **(GRADE: C-)**

DENVER BRONCOS

For a team that couldn't swing a pre-draft deal for DT Eric Swann (Arizona didn't like those high-priced, down-side veterans it would have had to take) and then couldn't get the pass rusher it wanted, the Broncos more than held their own. First-round OLB John Mobley comes from Kutztown State, a small school that produced Andre Reed and Bruce Harper. Mobley starred in the Blue-Gray game and Senior Bowl, but is he big enough (6-1, 230)? Second-round CB Tory James of LSU and fourth-round QB Jeff Lewis of Northern Arizona filled needs, although James is not a burner, is not physical, and plays soft. Lewis will learn at John Elway's knee. **(GRADE: B)**

DETROIT LIONS

A hard draft to knock. With Chris Spielman gone and Mike Johnson about to be waived as a salary-cap problem, a good linebacker was needed. With Lomas Brown and Doug Widell gone, an offensive lineman was needed. With two picks on the first round, both needs were filled. First came OLB Reggie Brown of Texas A&M, who is fast, active, and a hitter. Then came OG Jeff Hartings of Penn State, a good blocker to protect Scott Mitchell for the Lions' quick-pass offense. Both should start immediately. The Lions had only five picks, and the last three went to upgrade a defense that crumbled in the playoffs last season. **(GRADE: B)**

GREEN BAY PACKERS

It nmay turn out well. The Packers are already a winning team, and they found blockers to protect QB Brett Favre and a quarterback for the future to learn under him. They took prime blockers in the first round in OT John Michels of USC and C Mike Flanagan of UCLA in the third. Michels can learn this year from Ken Ruettgers (if Ruettgers is healthy enough to play) how to stop power rushers. Second-round WR Derrick Mayes of Notre Dame, third-round CB Tyrone Williams of Nebraska, and fourth round RB Chris Darkins of Minnesota can help now. Seventh-round QB Kyle Wachholtz of USC has time. **(GRADE: B-)**

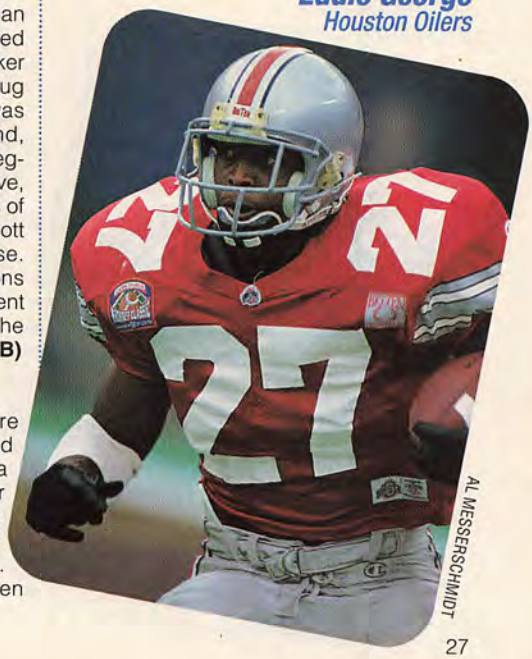
HOUSTON OILERS

They played the draft game and won. Their target was RB Eddie George, Ohio State's durable Heisman Trophy winner. They traded down from the eighth pick to the 17th and back up to 14th, and while many waited for them to take a defensive lineman, they grabbed George for their one-back offense. A clue came the day before the draft when they waived high-priced RB Gary Brown. In the second round, they added DT Bryant Mix, who played defensive end at Alcorn State, and OG Jason Layman, who also played tackle and center for Tennessee. Interesting pick in the sixth round: S/CB Anthony Dorsett Jr. of Pitt, son of the Hall of Fame running back. **(GRADE: B)**

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

A good draft if only because their first-rounder was WR Marvin Harrison of Syracuse, an exciting receiver and punt returner and a steal at No. 19. If Flipper Anderson makes it back from rehab, he, Sean Dawkins, and Harrison will make life miserable for opposing cornerbacks. As Lindy Infante, the new head coach, says, "Marvin Harrison plays fast." The secondary should get needed help from CB Dedric Mathis of Houston, a good cover man who is long on athletic skills, short on technique. Fourth-round FB Brian Milne of Penn State, an NCAA discus champion, overcame Hodgkin's disease as a teen-ager. **(GRADE: B)**

Eddie George
Houston Oilers



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

A neat draft because first-round OLB Kevin Hardy of Illinois may have been the best player available and second-round DE Tony Brackens of Texas should have gone in the first round. This second-year expansion team needed a lot—mostly defenders and wide receivers. The defense, which made only 17 sacks all last season, got immediate help fom Hardy, who is quick, willing, and coachable; and Brackens, an explosive pass rusher. Four of the last six picks were wide receivers, including sixth-rounder Chris Doering, a slim, slow, walk-on who became Florida's all-time touchcown reception leader. **(GRADE: A-)**

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

An odd draft for a team that missed a big chance last year. In free agency, it did little. In the draft, the Chiefs wanted a linebacker, a tight end, a quarterback, and a kicker. The first two picks were hard-playing safeties: first-rounder Jerome Woods of Memphis and second-rounder Reggie Tongue of Oregon State. Both will be tried at cornerback, partly because S Mark Collins and S Doug Terry decided to return. Fourth-round OLB Donnie Edwards of UCLA is aggressive and gets the most out of his talent. No tight end, no quarterback, no kicker. **(GRADE: C)**

MIAMI DOLPHINS

A puzzling draft, almost as if the new coach, Jimmy Johnson, intentionally backed himself into a corner just to prove he could fight his way out. The defense lost its three best players (ILB Bryan Cox, CB Troy Vincent, and DE Marco Coleman) and needed a quick fix. But will first-round DT Daryl Gardener of Baylor furnish it, or will he continue to cruise and play only as hard as he has to? "I'm sure there could have been a safer pick," Johnson says, "but do you want to be safe and good or do you want to take a chance and be great?" Third-round CB Dorian Brew of Kansas is a good cover man. Third-rounder RB Karim Abdul-Jabbar of UCLA is a steal, a potential every-down player. **(GRADE: B)**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

A workmanlike job in the early rounds. The defense, uncharacteristically soft last year, needed an outside pass rusher and got a good one in the first round in explosive DE Duane Clemons of California. He is projected as an outside linebacker. He has strength and technique and should help the pass rush immediately. Second-round DT James Manley of Vanderbilt is an unsophisticated wide body ranked only 20th among defensive linemen by the authoritative Ourlad's Guide, but he could still become a pile-pushing nose tackle. RB Moe Williams of Kentucky was a third-round bargain and could be a third-down star. **(GRADE: B-)**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

A real good job because owner Bob Kraft overruled his coach, Bill Parcells, who wanted defensive help first. The personnel people preferrred WR Terry Glenn of Ohio State, who has 4.48 speed for outside routes and toughness for inside. But can he block? "We invested $42 million in Drew Bledsoe at quarterback," Kraft says, "and I think this helps to round out the investment." Second-round FS Lawyer Milloy of Washington is a big hitter who will replace Myron Guyton. Third-round OLB Tedy Bruschi of Arizona is really a quick defensive end who should thrive in his new position. In an embarrassing sequence, the Patriots drafted DT Christian Peter of Nebraska in the fifth round despite his history of off-the-field problems, then cut him three days later. **(GRADE: B)**

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

An excellent job by a team whose once-feared defense had disintegrated. Its first three choices were on defense, and the new Saints should make a difference. First-round CB Alex Molden (4.38, 40-inch vertical jump) of Oregon was the best cover man in the draft, a big asset in a pass-happy division. The Saints also signed CB Eric Allen and CB Mark McMillian as free agents, but no team has ever complained about having too many cornerbacks. Second-round FS Je'Rod Cherry of California runs like a cornerback and hits like a safety. DE Brady Smith of Colorado State is an agile pass rusher and a third-round steal. **(GRADE: B+)**

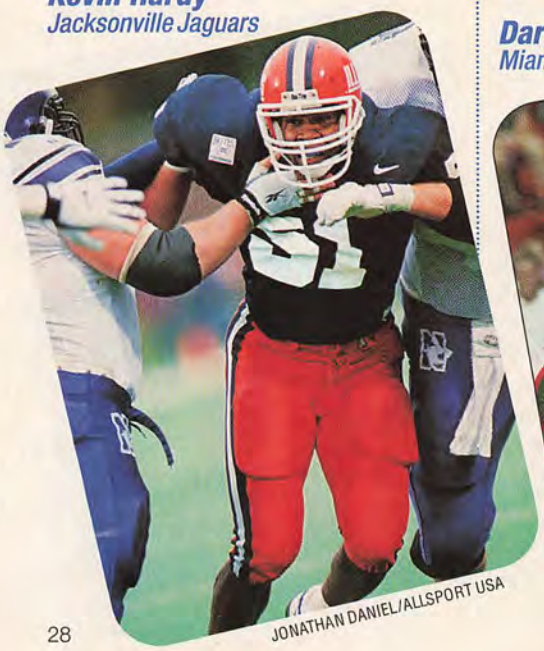
NEW YORK GIANTS

What started as a nighmare turned into a tolerable draft. The Giants had the fifth pick overall and did not need or want RB Lawrence Phillips. They were sure someone above them would take him, so that WR Keyshawn Johnson, DE Simeon Rice, OLB Kevin Hardy, or OT Jonathan Ogden would drop to them. Instead, Phillips was there and the four others were gone. The stunned Giants rescued themselves with DE Cedric Jones of Oklahoma, a pass rusher and three-down player. Second-round WR Amani Tooner of Michigan is a good blocker and a clever runner after the catch who fills a big need. Third-round OT Roman Oben of Louisville may eventually replace the departed Jumbo Elliott and fourth-round QB Danny Kanell of Florida State will challenge Tommy Maddox for the backup job. **(GRADE: B-)**

NEW YORK JETS

A great draft, as befits the team with the first pick overall. That honor and the big cash it brings went to WR Keyshawn Johnson of USC, a Michael Irvin-type game-breaker with speed, accleration, and a six-figure shoe contract. In the second round, when a running back seemed likely, the Jets took WR Alex Van Dyke of Nevada, who caught 98 passes as a junior and 129 as a senior. So now new QB Neil O'Donnell has targets that the Jets lacked last year. After those

Kevin Hardy
Jacksonville Jaguars



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receivers, the Jets took five defensive players. Two could start immediately: third-round CB Ray Mickens of Texas A&M, a fiery cover man, and fifth-round SS Marcus Coleman of Texas Tech. **(GRADE: B+)**

OAKLAND RAIDERS

This could be a big draft if TE Rickey Dudley of Ohio State turns out to be in the mold of Dave Casper and Todd Christensen. The Raiders gave up their picks in the first, second, and fourth rounds to move up eight places and get the former basketball player. He is lean, agile, fast, and fearless, and many teams coveted him. He will learn to block, but meanwhile he provides newly re-signed QB Jeff Hostetler with an inside target to take the heat off the flyboy wideouts. Second-round OLB Lance Johnstone of Temple can be a steal if he does not try to finesse every blocker. One negative: The Raiders did not get a badly needed offensive tackle. **(GRADE: B)**

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

A draft with potential. When OLBs John Mobley and Reggie Brown and WRs Eddie Kennison and Marvin Harrison were gone late in the first round, the Eagles turned to OT Jermane Mayberry of Texas A&M-Kingsville, a good, strong run blocker who sometimes coasted against Division II foes. He may be tried at guard. In the second round, passing up a trade for TE Johnny Mitchell of the Jets, they took TE Jason Dunn of Eastern Kentucky, a gifted athlete who even returned punts last year. Second-round S Brian Dawkins of Clemson is a hitter and will probably start. Third-round QB Bobby Hoying of Ohio State is smart and could start in a year. **(GRADE: C+)**

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The verdict on this draft is in the hands (and legs) of RB Jerome Bettis. With John L. Williams cut loose and Bam Morris facing drug charges, this Super Bowl team needed a heavy-duty runner. They traded essentially a second-round choice to the Rams for Bettis, a star his first two pro seasons but foiled last year by eight-man fronts. Other needs were filled quickly, too. First-round OT Jamain Stephens of North Carolina A&T is explosive and raw and a reach unless he learns to play hard all the time. Third-rounder OLB Steve Conley of Arkansas has natural pass-rushing talent and much to learn. Sixth-rounder Spence Fischer does not look like the eventual quarterback to replace the departed Neil O'Donnell. **(GRADE: B-)**

ST. LOUIS RAMS

A great draft until proven otherwise. They signed unrestricted free agents (DE Leslie O'Neal and MLB Robert Jones) for defense and drafted for offense. In the first round, when the first five teams passed on RB Lawrence Phillips of Nebraska, the Rams grabbed him. With Jerome Bettis shipped to the Steelers, Phillips is an instant starter. Later in the first round, they took WR Eddie Kennison of LSU, a good receiver and blocker who also returns punts and kickoffs. Second-rounder Tony Banks of Michigan State was the first quarterback drafted. He has a strong arm, and when he becomes accurate on deep passes he may start. Another second-rounder, TE Ernie Conwell of Washington, has heart. **(GRADE: A-)**

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Not much of a draft. A year ago, GM Bobby Beathard traded his 1996 first-round pick for a 1995 second-rounder he liked. He did it again this time (for the fifth time in seven years) because he needed a wide receiver. He took one he liked in Bryan Still of Virginia Tech, a skinny burner who can be outmuscled. The Chargers' own second-round pick brought a bulked-up OLB Patrick Sapp of Clemson, who played quarterback for three years and seems uncomfortable now. Second round? Even he was surprised. Third-round TE Brian Roche of San Jose State will help despite erratic blocking. Sixth-round C Bryan Stoltenberg reportedly made only two bad snaps out of 2,900 for Colorado. **(GRADE: C-)**

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

A poor job unless they know something we don't know. Last year's draft, except for WR J.J. Stokes, was unproductive, and part of the cost for moving up to get Stokes was this year's first-rounder. So this spring, their first pick was second-round DE Israel Ifeanyi of USC, a 25-year-old Nigerian who has played football only four years. He is destined for Rickey Jackson's DE/OLB job. Third-round WR Terrell Owens of UT-Chattanooga is big and willing. No cornerback, no offensive lineman, but a sixth-round RB, Stephen Pitts of Penn State, who is a steal if he avoids injury. A name to remember: Fifth-round WR Iheanyi Uwaezuoke of California and Nigeria. **(GRADE: C-)**

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

A fine start but then not much. The player they wanted all along was OG Pete Kendall, who played tackle at Boston College. He's solid and smart but not overpowering. Instead of taking him with the 14th pick of the first round, they traded down twice, picked up veteran DT Glenn Montgomery and a third-round pick and still got him with the 21st pick. Second-round CB Fred Thomas of Tennessee-Martin is fluid, small, green, and promising. Third-round OT Robert Barr of Rutgers is slow and inconsistent. Badly needed defensive ends were taken on the fourth and seventh rounds, but they seem unlikely to help an anemic pass rush. **(GRADE: C+)**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

If they play as well as they drafted, the Bucs will have their first winning season since 1982 and then some. The new coach, Tony Dungy, has always coached defense. His already lethargic defense lost its two starting tackles to free agency, and he had four of the first 41 picks to remedy that. He did it with two sound first-round choices: DE Regan Upshaw of California, a high-energy pass rusher in the John Randle mold, and DT Marcus Jones of North Carolina, who is steady and strong and an immediate starter at nose tackle. One second-round pick brought FB Mike Alstott of Purdue, the best fullback in the draft, and the other went to the Chargers for a 1997 No. 1. **(GRADE: A)**

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Fair at best. In the days before the draft, they traded the sixth pick overall to the Rams for DT Sean Gilbert, who can be boom or bust. The Rams used that pick to get RB Lawrence Phillips. The Redskins traded their second- and third-round spots to the Cowboys for the last pick of the first round and used it to get OT Andre Johnson of Penn State, who is only a fair run blocker and probably would have lasted another round. He becomes the heir apparent to Jim Lachey. If fourth-round RB Stephen Davis of Auburn learns to protect the ball and block, he will be a steal. There was little help for the needy defense. **(GRADE: C)**

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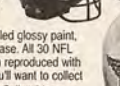

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2 **28oz Wrap-Around Logo/Mascot Stein** (not shown) All 30 teams avail. #XP21 ... **$18.95**
3 **Full color Helmet Design Coasters set of 4** All 30 teams avail. #NFL30 ... **$11.95**

Leather Sleeve Jacket

All NFL (except Eagles & Ravens), NBA, NHL, MLB & many college teams available

$260.00 ea **Jackets have tendency to run small. Order one size larger than normal.**

24oz. wool melton body. Leather sleeves. Large chenille patch on front and back. Left shoulder has commemorative patch. No refunds or returns on jackets as they are custom made. Sizes: S(34-36), M(38-40), L(42-44), XL(46-48), 2XL (50-52) Add 20%, 3XL (54-56) add 30%, 4XL (58-60) add 40%

Little Pros Youth Football Outfits $48.95

• Foam padded, molded plastic helmet with face mask and chin strap • Polyester jersey w/player number • Lace up shoulder pads • Elastic waist pants • Size Med fits ages 8-12 • NOT for contact play item#NFL585

Teams available:
Cowboys, Bills, Broncos, Packers, Jaguars, Chiefs, Dolphins, Giants, Panthers, Raiders, 49ers, Chargers, Seahawks, St.Louis Rams

Toddler Jerseys $24.95

Replica of your favorite teams for youngsters. Dazzle cloth cowl and sleeve with nylon mesh body. Team name on front above number (no name on back) Sizes 2T, 3T, 4T

NFL item#T790
College item#P2500

College's avai.: Not available until August

Alabama	Crimson	#29
Florida	Royal	#7
Fla St	Cardinal	#28
Michigan	Navy	#21
Nebraska	Red	#30
N.Carolina	Lt Blue	#12
Northwestern	Black	#24
Ohio St	Red	#83
Penn St	Navy	#31
Tenn	White	#16

NFL available:

Cowboys	Navy	#8
Cowboys	White	#22
49ers	Cardinal	#8
Dolphins	Aqua	#13
Broncos	Orange	#7
Packers	Green	#4
Raiders	Black	#15
Steelers	Black	#26
Vikings	Purple	#1
Bills	Royal	#12
Giants	Royal	#27
Lions	Blue	#20
Redskins	Cardinal	#5
Chiefs	Red	#58
Jaguars	Teal	#7
Panthers	Black	#12
Packers	Green	#4
49ers	White	#8
49ers	Cardinal	#8
49ers	Cardinal	#80
Dolphins	Aqua	#13
Dolphins	White	#13
Patriots	Royal	#11
Bills	Royal	#12
Colts	White	#28
Colts	Royal	#28
Steelers	Black	#10
Steelers	Black	#95
Jaguars	Teal	#8
Chargers	Navy	#55
Raiders	Black	#15
Chiefs	White	#19
Chiefs	Scarlet	#56
Broncos	Orange	#7
Lions	Blue	#20
Lions	Blue	#84
Giants	Royal	#27
Redskins	Cardinal	#82
Vikings	Purple	#80
Panthers	Black	#12
Seahawks	Royal	#42
Bengals	Black	#8
Falcons	Black	#1
Rams	Royal	#80
Bucs	White	#32
Saints	Black	#17
Ravens	Dark	#29
Jets	Green	#14
Oilers	Lt.Blue	#9

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Rice
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Bledsoe
Kelly
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Blake
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Rhett
Everett
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O'Donnell
S.McNair

Authentic *ProLine* Jerseys $124.95

(except Jaguars & Patriots $189.00)
item# PROJ
Sizes 44, 48, 52
Jersey by Wilson & Russell

Athletic. Available for the following NFL teams, players, & numbers made with the authentic specifications as worn on game day. Only available in color and numbers listed below. We can do any name for an extra $25.00 except: Bears, Chiefs, Oilers, Falcons, Bucs, Broncos, Eagles, Jaguars, Panthers, Dolphins, & Jets - Add $30.00.
No returns on custom jerseys.
Most Jerseys not available until mid August.
Other players available upon request

All new! ProBowl Jerseys - Available for the following players with name on back
NFC- #8 Aikman, #22 E. Smith
AFC- #13 Marino
Sizes: 44, 48, 52
$275.00
#AFC-PROJ-AFC
#NFC-PROJ-NFC
Allow 8 weeks for delivery

Names on Jerseys are a extra

Cowboys	White	#8	Aikman
Cowboys	Blue	#8	Aikman
Cowboys	White	#22	E.Smith
Cowboys	Blue	#22	E.Smith
Cowboys	White	#21	Sanders
Cowboys	Blue	#21	Sanders
Eagles	Green	#23	Vincent
Eagles	White	#32	Walters
Eagles	Green	#32	Walters
Bears	Navy	#31	Salaam
Bears	Navy	#52	Cox
Miami	Orange	#1	
Michigan	Navy	#21	
Nebraska	Red	#30	
N.Carolina	Lt Blue	#12	
N.Western	Black	#24	
Ohio St	Red	#83	
Penn St	Navy	#31	
Tenn	White	#16	
Washington	Purple	#1	
Wisconsin	Red	#13	

NFL - Replica Jerseys

Replica's of your favorite NFL teams. Dazzle cloth cowl and sleeve with nylon mesh body and silkscreened on name on back.

Adult sizes: L (44), XL (48), & XXL (52) **$49.95** item# A790

Youth sizes: L(14-16), XL (18-20) **$39.95** item# B790

Most NFL teams available - Popular player numbers only - No customizing. Not available until August *Names do come on back of jerseys with player name at no extra charge

College Replica Jerseys $44.95

Replicas of your favorite college teams. Available with team name on front and school logo on shoulders. Dazzle cloth cowl and sleeve with nylon mesh body. Numbers are noted below with color of Jersey. No customizing.

item# P2300
Jerseys not available until August.
Adult sizes - L(44), XL (46), XXL (52)

Available for:

Alabama	Crimson	#29
Auburn	Navy	#16
BYU	Royal	#1
Clemson	Orange	#15
Colorado	Black	#14
Florida	Royal	#7
Florida St	Cardinal	#28
Georgia	Red	#14
LSU	White	#2
Miami	Orange	#1
Michigan	Navy	#21
Nebraska	Red	#30
N.Carolina	Lt Blue	#12
N.Western	Black	#24
Ohio St	Red	#83
Penn St	Navy	#31
Tenn	White	#16
Washington	Purple	#1
Wisconsin	Red	#13

1. **96 Yearbooks** # NFLYB96 . . . . . **$10**
Cardinals, Falcons, Panthers, Bears, Ravens, Cowboys, Broncos, Lions, Oilers, Chiefs, Dolphins, Vikings, Saints, Jets, Raiders, Eagles, Seahawks, Buccaneers. Redskins, Steelers, Packers, Patriots
2. **Helmet Lamp** # NCL. **$220**
5"x14"x23" comes with lamp shade mounted on a 9"x12" solid oak base. Most Colleges and All NFL available.
3. **Helmet Plaque** # NFP. **$79.95**
Authentic Riddell helmet cut in half and mounted on an oak plaque. All NFL teams available plus many Colleges. by Nardi
4. **Helmet Phone** # NCTP **$250**
5. **Deluxe Standing Board** # STMBP . . . **$49.95**
6. **Standing Board** # STMBP **$39.95**

ITEM#	DESCRIPTION	TEAM	2ND CHOICE	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL
						$
						$
						$

For more ordering space, attach additional sheet

Total Merchandise Amount	$
NY Sales Tax 7%	$
NC Sales Tax 4%	$
Canadian Orders Add 20%	$
Delivery Charge	$
TOTAL AMOUNT*	$

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone

*NOTE Shipping & Sales Tax Must Be Added

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Card # ☐ Discover
Exp. Date
Signature

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DALE ZANINE

PEYTON'S PLACE

A Sneak Preview of the Top Prospects in the '97 NFL Draft

by JIM CARLEY

There could be some real suspense when it comes time for the 1997 NFL draft. And the mini-drama will be at Peyton's Place.

Peyton Manning, that is. The intrigue might center around whether Peyton, the All-America quarterback at Tennessee, can persuade his father, Archie, that it is better to take $40 million in the hand rather than wait for $50 million in the bush.

Peyton is a junior this season and Archie, an NFL star with the New Orleans Saints and Houston Oilers, has been dead set against Peyton leaving school early. It has to do with commitments and honoring a four-year scholarships.

Peyton set UT records for completions (244), attempts (380), and passing yards (2,954) and has the pro scouts drooling. Those same scouts are reluctant to talk about underclassmen for fear of incurring the wrath of college coaches, but they have plenty to say about Manning if you promise anonymity. They say he's big (6-5, 215) and has a powerful arm. Those aren't his most valuable assets.

"Where he really is great is just knowing the game," one NFC scout said. "He has a great feel for the game. There are guys with stronger arms and guys who are bigger and faster. But there aren't many who have his ability to control a game.

"He's more like a Joe Montana than a John Elway. Ever since he was little, his dad has shown him the intricacies of the game. He knows it better than just about anyone coming out of the college game."

Insiders say Tennessee coaches were stunned when Manning showed up as a freshman. "They said he knew more about reading defenses and understood the offense better as a freshman that year than Heath Shuler did when he left," one scout said. "[Peyton] had an unusual tutelage. His dad taught him an awful lot."

Thus Manning probably won't have a lot more to learn after this season. For that reason and several others, most observers expect Manning to convince his father that the time to come out is next spring. As one scout put it, "He'll probably be the No. 1 pick in the draft if he comes out. Hell, he might have been the No. 1 pick last year.

"And here's the thing—if he is the No. 1 pick, he stands to make $40 million. Just think about it. Shuler was the third pick three years ago and got $19 million. Steve McNair was the third pick two years ago and got $28. At that rate of inflation, a top three quarterback would have gotten $37 million last year if one had been good enough to go that high then."

Archie Manning has repeatedly told scouts that money is no object, that staying in school for four years is more important. But what if Peyton were to be injured his senior year?

"I don't know where you can get enough insurance to protect yourself against that kind of loss," one scout said. "If he puts up the kind of numbers everyone thinks he will, I don't see how he could not come out."

There were no quarterbacks drafted in the first round in 1996 (for the first time since 1988). The best of the class of '97—Florida's Danny Wuerffel, Notre Dame's Ron Powlus, USC's Brad Otton, Arizona State's Jake Plummer, and Brigham Young's Steve Sarkisian—have a lot to prove this year before they will be considered solid first-round picks.

"There won't be a quarterback taken in the first round," one scout said, "until Manning comes out, whether it's this year or next." ❑

STREET & SMITH'S 1997 MOCK FIRST ROUND DRAFT

1. Peyton Manning, QB, *Tennessee**
2. Orlando Pace, OL, *Ohio State**
3. Shawn Springs, DB, *Ohio State**
4. Cornell Brown, DL, *Virginia Tech*
5. Robert Edwards, RB, *Georgia*
6. Rae Carruth, WR, *Colorado*
7. Jarrett Irons, LB, *Michigan*
8. Jay Graham, RB, *Tennessee*
9. Juan Roque, OL, *Arizona State*
10. Andre Cooper, WR, *Florida State*
11. Chris Naeole, OL, *Colorado*
12. Marcus Harris, WR, *Wyoming*
13. Jared Tomich, DE, *Nebraska*
14. Chris Canty, DB, *Kansas State*
15. Reinard Wilson, DL, *Florida State*
16. Tyrus McCloud, LB, *Louisville*
17. Brandon Mitchell, DL, Texas A&M
18. Warrick Dunn, RB, *Florida State*
19. Donovan Greer, DB, *Texas A&M*
20. Mike Adams, WR, *Texas*
21. Kenny Wheaton, DB, *Oregon**
22. Jeff Mitchell, OL, *Florida*
23. Brian Miller, DB, *Penn State*
24. Joey Kent, WR, *Tennessee*
25. Tiki Barber, RB, *Virginia*
26. Tarik Glenn, OL, *California*
27. Leon Johnson, RB, *North Carolina*
28. Pat Fitzgerald, LB, *Northwestern*
29. Dwayne Curry, LB, *Mississippi St.**
30. Stephen Alexander, TE, *Oklahoma**

POTENTIAL FIRST-ROUNDERS

Brad Otton, QB, *USC*
George Jones, RB, *San Diego State*
Ron Powlus, QB, *Notre Dame*
Jake Plummer, QB, *Arizona State*
Steve Sarkisian, QB, *Brigham Young*
Troy Davis, RB, *Iowa State**
Kevin Lockett, WR, *Kansas State*

SLEEPERS

Marc Edwards, FB, *Notre Dame*
Jim Arellanes, QB, *Fresno State*
Chris Clevenger, OL, *Notre Dame*
Kenny Holmes, DL, *Miami*
Pete Chryplewicz, TE, *Notre Dame*
Koy Detmer, QB, *Colorado*
Madre Hill, RB, *Arkansas**
Damon Benning, RB, *Nebraska*
Ryan Terwilliger, DE, *Nebraska*
Sam Cowart, LB, *Florida State*
Derrick Steagall, WR, *Georgia Tech*

** Junior*

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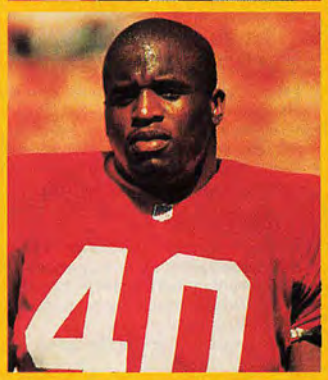

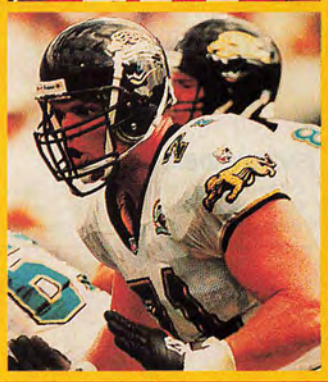

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$25,000 CASH GRAND PRIZE

Enter by July 20th For Only $79

How To Play

Pick a team of 20 starters using a $30,000,000 salary cap

ROSTER

- Starting team consists of 20 players:

3 Kickers **6 Running Backs** **6 Wide Receivers**
3 Quarterbacks **2 Tight Ends**

- Starting team's salary cannot exceed the $30,000,000 salary cap.
- Taxi squad consists of any 10 players.
- Salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply for the taxi squad.
- Unlisted players may be placed on your taxi squad. Their salary will be $750,000. They will be assigned a position by CDM after Week 1 and may be placed on your starting team for Week 2.

We'll place your entry in a league and a division

LEAGUE FORMATION

- Leagues and divisions are formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 25 teams form a league. 10 leagues form a division.
- All teams compete for the overall grand prize.
- Teams may have many of the same players, but no two teams with the same roster will be in the same league.

REPORTS

- Receive a five-page report weekly or bi-weekly. You automatically receive bi-weekly reports with your entry fee. (First reports mailed September 11th)
- Updated league rosters and top 5 in your division & top 5 overall sent every 6 weeks.
- Fax service available. Call for details.

Reports also available via the Internet

Play our On-Line Football Challenge See us at http://www.cdmnet.com/fsi/football

ENTRY DEADLINES

- Entries must be phoned or faxed by Sat., Aug. 31, 1996.
- Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than Aug. 31, 1996 and received no later than Thursday, Sept. 5, 1996.

Football team owners shared $515,652 in Cash Prizes Last Year!

3 WAYS TO EARN CASH PRIZES

- **League** (1 in 5 earn cash)
- **Division** (1 in 10 earn more cash)
- **Overall** (Top 25 earn lots of cash)

1 in 25 will earn at least $600 Cash

Place	Overall Prizes (all entries)	Division Prizes (250 teams)	League Prizes (25 teams)
1st	$25,000	$1,000	$600
2nd	$10,000	$500	$300
3rd	$5,000	$250	$100
4th	$2,500	$100	$75
5th	$1,000	$75	$50
6th to 10th	$500	$50	
11th to 15th	$250	$30	
16th to 25th	$100	$25	

Plus $100 will be awarded to the overall leader each week*

***beginning with week 2**

More Cash Prize Winners Than Any Other National Challenge

COST TO PLAY

- $79.00 for an entry postmarked by July 20, 1996
- $89.00 for an entry postmarked by August 10, 1996.
- $99.00 for an entry postmarked after August 10, 1996.
- $79.00 for each additional entry.
- $10.00 for reports to be mailed to a second address.
- $10.00 per address per team for reports to be mailed weekly rather than bi-weekly.

TRANSACTION FEES

- To make player transactions, a toll-free 800 number and an account number will be provided.

  The transaction fees are as follows:
  Any Player move before Sept. 1 (unlimited)..$1 each
  Bye Player Moved In or Out (unlimited).....$1 each
  Taxi Squad Switch (unlimited) .....$3 each
  New Player Purchase (limit 8) .....$10 each
  TSN Free Agent Acquisition (limit 3).....No Charge
- Player transactions must be made by Saturday 9 PM Central Time in order to be effective for the upcoming Sunday and Monday games, or by 9 PM CST the day preceding any other game (changes for Thursday games must be made by 9 PM Wednesday night).

SCORING

- Each team will be ranked within its league, division and overall by eight statistical categories:

Total Scoring	Total Receiving Yards
Kicker Scoring	Receiving Yards Average
Total Rushing Yards	Total Passing Yards
Rushing Yards Average	Passing Yards Average

- The following formula is used to calculate total scoring: (Rushing TDs x 6)+(Passing TDs x 3)+(Receiving TDs x 3)+(Field Goals x 3)+Extra Points+(Other TDs x 6).
- The average categories are calculated using your team total completions, carries and receptions.
- Rankings will be determined by using the Rotisserie®-style ranking system. Each team is ranked in league, division and overall.
- Stats are accumulated weekly for all 20 starting players. The stat week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Monday.
- All pro football statistics accumulated by the players on the starting team, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's statistics totals. Special team yardage does not count.
- Taxi squad players' stats don't contribute to team's stat totals.
- Previous stats by a player before he was on your roster do not count.
- A player's statistics are added to your team's statistics totals only during the weeks that he is in your starting team.
- Pre-season and play-off statistics do not contribute to your team's statistics totals.
- Division points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus every other team's stats in your division's 10 leagues.
- Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus all other entries' in *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge.*

Sports commissioners are waiting to answer your questions and enter your team. Call 1-800-568-6288

- *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge* welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For Canadian, Mexican and overseas entries, please add $10 to cover additional mailing costs. If needed, our toll number is 1-314-991-1511.
- **Player transactions can be made with live commissioners 9 AM - 9 PM Tuesday through Saturday. No transactions will be accepted on Sunday or Monday.**
- You must be 18 years or older to participate.
- No employees of CDM, Inc., The Sporting News Publishing Company, or their families are eligible to play.
- CDM, Inc. is a licensee of The Sporting News Publishing Company, and is solely responsible for enacting, administering, enforcing the rules, and maintaining the integrity of *The Challenge.*
- CDM, Inc. reserves the right to revise any rules to improve *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge.*
- Void where prohibited by law.
- Further explanation of all rules will be contained in your Welcome Package.
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The Sporting News

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Player Salaries

Kickers

ID	Player	TM	Salary
1	BONIOL, CHRIS	DAL	2070
2	ELAM, JASON	DEN	2050
3	REVEIZ, FUAD	MIN	2040
4	ANDERSEN, MORTON	ATL	1980
5	JOHNSON, NORM	PIT	1970
6	HANSON, JASON	DET	1960
7	CARNEY, JOHN	SD	1940
8	CHRISTIE, STEVE	BUF	1880
9	STOYANOVICH, PETE	MIA	1860
10	MURRAY, EDDIE	NA	1840
11	JACKE, CHRIS	GB	1780
12	PELFREY, DOUG	NA	1760
13	DEL GRECO, AL	HOU	1720
14	STOVER, MATT	BAL	1700
15	BUTLER, KEVIN	CHI	1700
16	BRIEN, DOUG	NO	1690
17	KASAY, JOHN	CAR	1610
18	DAVIS, GREG	ARZ	1580
19	JAEGER, JEFF	RAI	1570
20	BAHR, MATT	NE	1550
21	HOLLIS, MIKE	JAC	1480
22	LOWERY, NICK	NYJ	1470
23	HUSTED, MICHAEL	TB	1380
24	ELLIOTT, LIN	NA	1250
25	BIASUCCI, DEAN	NA	1220
26	LOHMILLER, CHIP	STL	1080
27	PETERSON, TODD	SEA	1020
28	BLANCHARD, CARY	IND	940
29	ZENDEJAS, TONY	NA	910
30	TREADWELL, DAVID	NA	860
31	ANDERSON, GARY	PHI	850
32	DALUISO, BRAD	NYG	720
33	WILKINS, JEFF	SF	710

Quarterbacks

ID	Player	TM	Salary
101	YOUNG, STEVE	SF	4000
102	BLAKE, JEFF	CIN	2960
103	HOSTETLER, JEFF	RAI	2890
104	ELWAY, JOHN	DEN	2800
105	COLLINS, KERRY	CAR	2620
106	MITCHELL, SCOTT	DET	2490
107	FAVRE, BRETT	GB	2300
108	MOON, WARREN	MIN	2280
109	MARINO, DAN	MIA	2240
110	TESTAVERDE, VINNY	BAL	2190
111	ERICKSON, CRAIG	IND	2160
112	GEORGE, JEFF	ATL	2140
113	KELLY, JIM	BUF	2130
114	BROWN, DAVID	NA	2080
115	O'DONNELL, NEIL	NYJ	2050
116	FREROTTE, GUS	WAS	1980
117	AIKMAN, TROY	DAL	1970
118	HUMPHRIES, STAN	SD	1900
119	EVERETT, JIM	NO	1840
120	BRUNELL, MARK	JAC	1700
121	ESIASON, BOOMER	ARZ	1630
122	BEUERLEIN, STEVE	CAR	1600
123	BLEDSOE, DREW	NE	1600

Quarterbacks (cont)

ID	Player	TM	Salary
124	HARBAUGH, JIM	IND	1590
125	KRIEG, DAVE	ARZ	1530
126	MIRER, RICK	SEA	1510
127	BONO, STEVE	KC	1500
128	KRAMER, ERIK	CHI	1410
129	DILFER, TRENT	TB	1350
130	SHULER, HEATH	WAS	1300
131	MILLER, CHRIS	NA	1160
132	CUNNINGHAM, R.	NA	1120
133	RICHARDSON, BUCKY	KC	780
134	HEBERT, BOBBY	NA	750
135	CHANDLER, CHRIS	HOU	750
136	MCNAIR, STEVE	HOU	740
137	EVANS, VINCE	RAI	720
138	FRIESZ, JOHN	SEA	720
139	PEETE, RODNEY	PHI	710
140	RYPIEN, MARK	FA	600
141	STEWART, KORDELL	PIT	600
142	WALSH, STEVE	STL	600

Running Backs

ID	Player	TM	Salary
201	SANDERS, BARRY	DET	3860
202	SMITH, EMMITT	DAL	3530
203	MARTIN, CURTIS	NE	2690
204	WARREN, CHRIS	SEA	2630
205	DAVIS, TERRELL	DEN	2590
206	WATTERS, RICKY	PHI	1780
207	HEYWARD, CRAIG	ATL	1430
208	FAULK, MARSHALL	IND	1340
209	MEANS, NATRONE	JAC	1330
210	BETTIS, JEROME	PIT	1320
211	BROWN, GARY	NA	1300
212	MORRIS, BYRON	PIT	1240
213	THOMAS, THURMAN	BUF	1230
214	ALLEN, TERRY	NA	1200
215	ALLEN, MARCUS	KC	1200
216	HOLMES, DARICK	BUF	1180
217	METCALF, ERIC	ATL	1180
218	GARNER, CHARLIE	PHI	1130
219	SALAAM, RASHAAN	CHI	1080
220	BATES, MARIO	NO	1060
221	HOARD, LEROY	BAL	1060
222	HAMPTON, RODNEY	NYG	1010
223	RHETT, ERRICT	TB	1010
224	BIAKABUTUKA, TIM	CAR	1000
225	GEORGE, EDDIE	HOU	1000
226	PHILLIPS, LAWRENCE	STL	1000
227	PEGRAM, ERRIC	PIT	990
228	KAUFMAN, NAPOLEON	RAI	990
229	WALKER, HERSCHEL	NYG	980
230	WILLIAMS, HARVEY	RAI	970
231	HILL, GREG	KC	960
232	JOHNSON, JOHNNY	SF	910
233	PARMALEE, BERNIE	MIA	880
234	MCELROY, LEELAND	AZ	800
235	ALSTOTT, MIKE	TB	800
236	FOSTER, BARRY	NA	800

Running Backs (cont)

ID	Player	TM	
237	KIRBY, TERRY	NA	740
238	BROOKS, REGGIE	NA	720
239	SMITH, ROBERT	NA	720
240	STEWART, JAMES T	JAC	720
241	POTTS, ROOSEVELT	IND	700
242	MITCHELL, BRIAN	WAS	700
243	GREEN, ROBERT	CHI	660
244	HARMON, RONNIE	NA	660
245	SMITH, LAMAR	SEA	660
246	THOMAS, RODNEY	HOU	600
247	ANDERS, KIMBLE	NA	590
248	BROUSSARD, STEVE	SEA	580
249	TILLMAN, LEWIS	NA	580
250	MOORE, RON	NYJ	570
251	HEARST, GARRISON	NA	540
252	MURRELL, ADRIAN	NYJ	540
253	BENNETT, EDGAR	GB	540
254	HAYDEN, AARON	SD	480
255	GRAHAM, SCOTTIE	NA	480
256	BIENIEMY, ERIC	CIN	470
257	LOGAN, MARC	WAS	460
258	MCNAIR, TODD	NA	450
259	RUSSELL, LEONARD	SD	450
260	CRAVER, AARON	DEN	440
261	FLETCHER, TERRELL	SD	430
262	MEGGETT, DAVID	NE	420
263	WILLIAMS, SHERMAN	DAL	400
265	BAILEY, JOHNNY	NA	390
266	BERNSTINE, ROD	NA	390
267	SPIKES, IRVING	MIA	380
268	WHITE, LORENZO	BAL	380
269	MILBURN, GLYN	DEN	370
270	LEE, AMP	MIN	350
271	CENTERS, LARRY	ARZ	340
272	ANDERSON, JAMAL	ATL	330
273	MOORE, DERRICK	NA	310
274	BYARS, KEITH	MIA	310
275	WILLIAMS, JOHN L	NA	300
276	STEWART, JAMES M	MIN	290
277	LEVENS, DORSEY	GB	290
278	FLOYD, WILLIAM	SF	250

Tight Ends

ID	Player	TM	Salary
401	DILGER, KEN	IND	1810
402	COATES, BEN	NE	1680
403	SHARPE, SHANNON	DEN	1670
404	GREEN, ERIC	MIA	1650
405	MITCHELL, JOHNNY	NA	1450
406	HARRIS, JACKIE	TB	1280
407	MCGEE, TONY	NA	1230
408	JONES, BRENT	SF	1190
409	MITCHELL, PETE	JAC	1150
410	JACKSON, KEITH	NA	1140
411	WALLS, WESLEY	CAR	1050
412	CHMURA, MARK	GB	940
413	NOVACEK, JAY	DAL	820
414	DUDLEY, RICKEY	RAI	800
415	BATTAGLIA, MARCO	CIN	600
416	DUNN, JASON	PHI	600
417	CONWELL, ERNIE	STL	600
418	CROSS, HOWARD	NYG	570
419	BAVARO, MARK	NA	480
420	DRAYTON, TROY	STL	460
421	BROWN, DEREK2	JAC	450
422	WEST, ED	PHI	380
423	COOPER, ADRIAN	SF	370
424	CASH, KEITH	KC	360
425	CASH, KERRY	RAI	350
426	JOHNSON, LONNIE	BUF	340
427	ASHER, JAMIE	WAS	320
428	HAYES, JONATHAN	PIT	310
429	PIERCE, AARON	NYG	300
430	SMITH, IRV	NO	300
431	GLOVER, ANDREW	NA	300
432	FAURIA, CHRISTIAN	SEA	290
433	SLOAN, DAVID	DET	280
434	HORTON, ETHAN	NA	280
435	METZELAARS, PETE	DET	270
436	BRADY, KYLE	NYJ	260
437	WALKER, DERRICK	KC	260
438	KINCHEN, BRIAN	BAL	250
439	ARMSTRONG, TYJI	TB	220
440	BRUENER, MARK	PIT	210
441	PUPUNU, ALFRED	SD	210

Player's team based on team as of May 14, 1996.
NA indicates that player was not on a team as of May 14th.

Only players listed on this page can be placed in your starting line-up the 1st week!

Positions and salaries, as listed here, remain the same all season!

Wide Receivers

ID	Player	TM	Salary
501	RICE, JERRY	SF	2400
502	IRVIN, MICHAEL	DAL	1930
503	THIGPEN, YANCEY	PIT	1840
504	MOORE, HERMAN	DET	1780
505	ELLARD, HENRY	WAS	1780
506	GALLOWAY, JOEY	SEA	1740
507	BROWN, TIM	RAI	1710
508	MILLER, ANTHONY	DEN	1710
509	SANDERS, CHRIS	HOU	1700
510	FRYAR, IRVING	PHI	1600
511	BRUCE, ISAAC	STL	1450
512	SCOTT, DARNAY	CIN	1400
513	SANDERS, FRANK	ARZ	1380
514	RISON, ANDRE	BAL	1340
515	HARPER, ALVIN	TB	1330
516	PICKENS, CARL	CIN	1310
517	GRAHAM, JEFF	NYJ	1300
518	REED, ANDRE	BUF	1180
519	MARTIN, TONY	SD	1170
520	DAVIS, WILLIE	HOU	1170
521	REED, JAKE	MIN	1110
522	BRISBY, VINCENT	NA	1100
523	MOORE, ROB	ARZ	1100
524	EMANUEL, BERT	ATL	1090
525	BLADES, BRIAN	SEA	1080
526	MATHIS, TERANCE	ATL	1080
527	PERRIMAN, BRETT	DET	1060
528	CARTER, CHRIS	MIN	1050
529	CARRIER, MARK J	NA	1050
530	EARLY, QUINN	BUF	1010
531	MOULDS, ERIC	BUF	1000
532	HARRISON, MARVIN	IND	1000
533	STILL, BRYAN	SD	1000
534	GLENN, TERRY	NE	1000
535	JOHNSON, KEYSHAWN	NYJ	1000
536	KENNISON, EDDIE	STL	1000
537	JACKSON, MICHAEL	BAL	970
538	BROOKS, ROBERT	GB	940
539	CONWAY, CURTIS	CHI	940
540	DAWKINS, SEAN	IND	900
541	CALLOWAY, CHRIS	NYG	900
542	WILSON, CHARLES	NA	880
543	SHERRARD, MIKE	TB	870
544	WESTBROOK, MICHAEL	WAS	860
545	COPELAND, HORACE	TB	850
546	CLARK, GARY	NA	850
547	WILLIAMS, CALVIN	PHI	840
548	SHARPE, STERLING	NA	840
549	HAYNES, MICHAEL	NO	840
550	ALEXANDER, DERRICK	BAL	830
551	GREEN, WILLIE	CAR	820
552	TAYLOR, JOHN	NA	820
553	MORTON, JOHNNIE	DET	820
554	SLAUGHTER, WEBSTER	NA	820
555	MUHAMMAD, MUHSIN	CAR	800
556	ENGRAM, BOBBY	CHI	800
557	MAYES, DERRICK	GB	800

Wide Receivers

ID	Player	TM	Salary
558	TOOMER, AMANI	NYG	800
559	VAN DYKE, ALEX	NYJ	800
560	STILL, BRYAN	SD	800
561	MILLS, ERNIE	PIT	790
562	JETT, JAMES	RAI	750
563	ISMAIL, QADRY	MIN	750
564	BAILEY, AARON	IND	730
565	BARNETT, FRED	MIA	730
566	BROOKS, BILL	WAS	720
567	HESTER, JESSIE	STL	710
568	TIMPSON, MICHAEL	CHI	700
569	JEFFIRES, HAYWOOD	NA	690
570	HAWKINS, COURTNEY	TB	680
571	ISMAIL, RAGHIB	NA	680
572	INGRAM, MARK	NA	670
573	DAWSON, LAKE	KC	660
574	JEFFERSON, SHAWN	NE	660
575	STOKES, J.J.	SF	650
576	RUSSELL, DERRICK	HOU	630
577	MARTIN, KELVIN	NA	620
578	WRIGHT, ALEXANDER	STL	610
579	MCDUFFIE, O.J.	MIA	590
580	PROEHL, RICKY	SEA	590
581	BIRDEN, JJ	ATL	590
582	GIVINS, ERNEST	NA	580
583	JOHNSON, CHARLES	PIT	580
584	CHREBET, WAYNE	NYJ	580
585	VANOVER, TAMARICK	KC	570
586	SMALL, TORRANCE	NO	570
587	COPELAND, RUSSELL	NA	560
588	HOWARD, DESMOND	NA	560
589	HILL, RANDAL	MIA	560
590	SEAY, MARK	PHI	550
591	MCCARDELL, KEENAN	JAC	530
592	BEEBE, DON	GB	500
593	DAWSEY, LAWRENCE	NA	490
594	HOBBS, DARYL	RAI	470
595	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	DAL	460
596	MARTIN, ERIC	NA	460
597	PRITCHARD, MIKE	DEN	450
598	MOORE, WILL	NE	430
599	TURNER, FLOYD	NA	420
600	EDWARDS, ANTHONY	ARZ	400
601	WINANS, TYDUS	WAS	360
602	HASTINGS, ANDRE	NA	360
603	TILLMAN, CEDRIC	NA	360
604	LANGHORNE, REGGIE	NA	350
605	BAILEY, VICTOR	NA	340
606	MONK, ART	NA	340
607	MCCAFFREY, ED	DEN	330
608	CARTER, ANTHONY	NA	330
609	KINCHEN, TODD	STL	320
610	STONE, DWIGHT	CAR	320
611	JOHNSON, VANCE	DEN	310
612	ARMOUR, JUSTIN	NA	290
613	MORGAN, ANTHONY	NA	290

Entries must be phoned or faxed by 9 PM Saturday, August 31, 1996

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Complete the entry form and enter your team using a Visa or Master Card by calling 1-800-568-6288 from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday thru Sunday or by fax (314) 991-1564 anytime. To pay with check or money order mail to: CDM, Inc., 11756 Borman Drive, Suite 220, St. Louis, MO 63146-4133

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All salaries are in 000's. Players not listed on this page, if selected, must be placed on taxi squad until week 2. Salary for unlisted players is $750.

I. Team Owner Information

S&S

Name _____

Team Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

MC/VISA _____ Exp _____

$99 Challenge Entry ($79 or $89 if early) _____

Additional Entries Quantity ___ x $79.00 = _____

Weekly Reports Quantity ___ x $10.00 = _____

Additional Address Quantity ___ x $10.00 = _____

TOTAL PAYMENT _____

Have you played a TSN Challenge before? _____

If yes, account number: _____

II. Starting Team

Feel free to enlarge or use a separate piece of paper

Pos	Id	Name	Salary	Pos	Id	Name	Salary
K				RB			
K				RB			
K				TE			
QB				TE			
QB				WR			
QB				WR			
RB				WR			
RB				WR			
RB				WR			
RB				WR			

Total Team Salary (cannot exceed $30,000,000) $_____

III. Taxi Squad

	Id	Name	Salary
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

CDM Fantasy Sports

VISA

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. To receive a copy of the rules and a one-time team selection entry form void of all services, send a letter size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: *CDM, Inc./Football, P.O. Box 28336, St. Louis, MO 63146.* One request per household. One request per envelope. All requests must be received by August 23, 1996.

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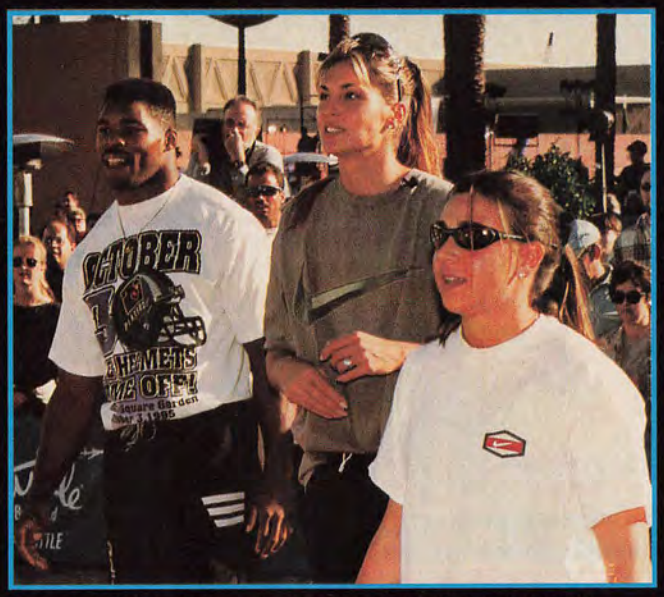
The Sporting News

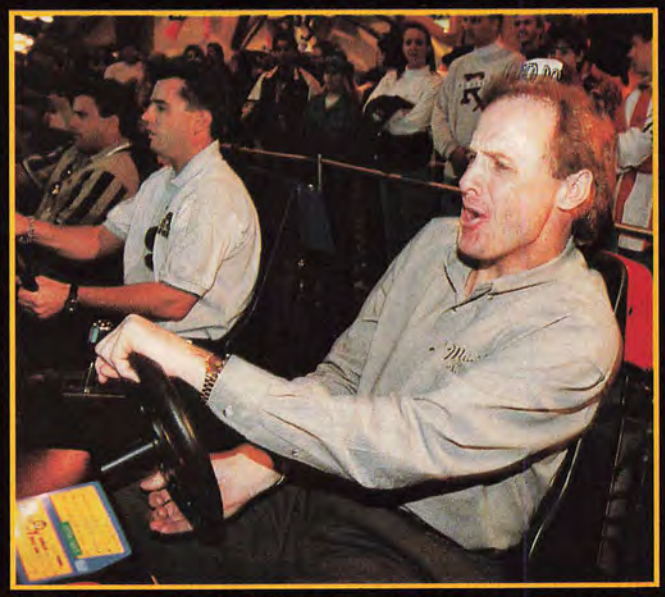
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PLAYERS INC

The Bud Light "girls" crashing the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders routine at the Sega Sports Sports/NFL Players Party.

Bernie kosar shows that he has a second career after football—guitar player for Meatloaf's band.



Herschel Walker joined pro beach volleyball star Gabrielle Resse in Volleybowl I during Super Bowl week.

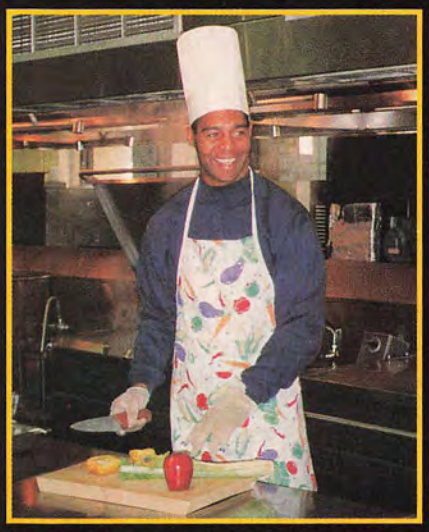


NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace attempts to conquer the Sega Daytona Deluxe Arcade at the Sega Sports/NFL Players Party.

Tony "The Goose" Siragusa shows that NFL players can mix it up off the field as he sings with Meatloaf.

Herschel Walker, Tim Brown, and Ronnie Lott pose with the country music band Sawyer Brown.

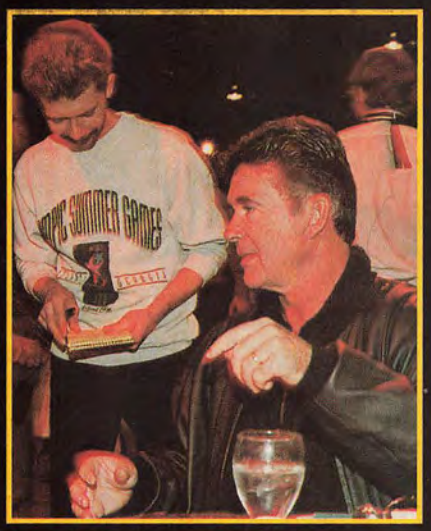
CELEBRITY SHOTS



Marcus Allen—caught preparing food for last year's World's Largest Super Bowl Party.

Kathy Ireland joins Marcus Allen, Tim Brown, Herschel Walker and his wife, and Ronnie Lott at the Sega Sports/NFL Players Party.

Ray Buchanan, Ashley Ambrose, and Corey Harris do their song routine at the Sega Sports/NFL Players Party in Phoenix.



Hope & Gloria star Alan Thicke signs autographs for fans at the NFL Players/ Special Olympics Branch during Super Bowl week.

Gene Upshaw and Mark Malone (ESPN) look on as Roger Staubach and Marcus Allen compete in a passing contest.

Marcus Allen of the K.C. Chiefs hams it up with the members of the Grammy Award Winning band Boyz-II-Men.

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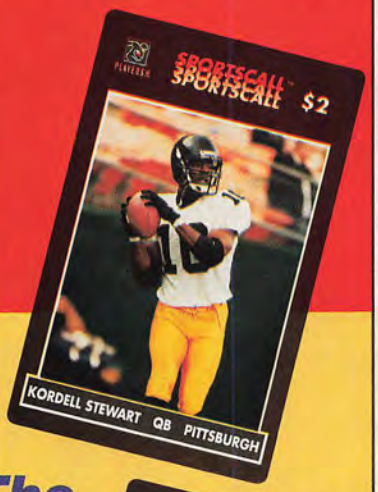

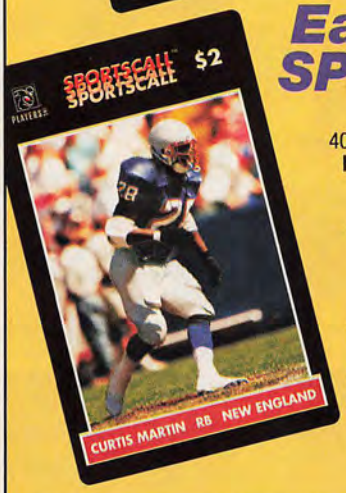

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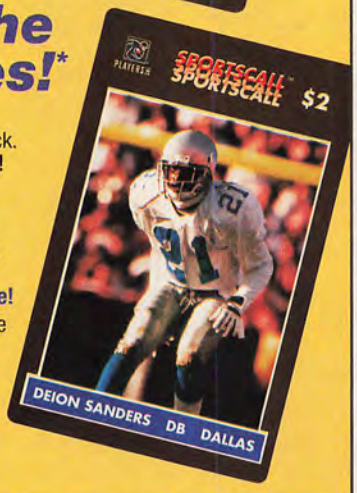

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KEVIN GREENE

BY ED BOUCHETTE

Kevin Greene had never seen such a blitz. They came from everywhere, wild men dressed in black and gold, fire in their eyes.

It was something a pass-rushing linebacker such as Green could love. Only this time they were chasing him. Steelers fans 15 or 20, spotted Greene while they were waiting for playoff tickets, broke line and swarmed him. All because he wanted to join and celebrate with his fans as they waited for hours in the cold.

"I thought I could go out, get the people going, high-five everyone," Greene said.

Instead, he found himself the focal point of a mob scene as fans rushed him and in their excitement pounded him upon the back, the shoulders and even his head. The tables turned and Greene felt like a quarterback caught in a pass rush. He ran and they ran after him. He opened the door to his car and jumped in as they banged on the windows.

"C'mon, Greene, let's party!"

That's Kevin Greene, life of the party. Football is not so much his sport or his job as it is his passion. He felt relieved to escape with his health after those crazed Steelers fans mobbed him in 1995. Know what? He was back at the same spot in 1996, this time delivering 100 Big Macs to Steelers fans waiting in line, hungry for playoff tickets.

Greene attacks life the way he does quarterbacks.

"Pass rushing," he says, "is not just technique and proper stance, reacting and getting off the ball. Pass rushing is more desire, it's more of a hunger than anything.

"I'm intense in every endeavor, whether it's football or horseshoes or croquet. I mean, I play intense croquet."

You'll have to take his word for it, but when it comes to football, there is proof. He led the NFL in 1994 with 14 sacks, in 11 seasons with the Rams and Pittsburgh, Greene rang up 107 sacks, seventh-most in NFL history.

"It's just a big play, a show-stopper," Greene says. If you can sack the quarterback in this league, you can go a long way. And they'll treat you right financially. It's been a blessing for me."

Captain Crunch, they call him. Greene is a captain in the Army National Guard, son of a retired Army colonel and Vietnam veteran, brother of an Army major, who was a Gulf War veteran, 101st Airborne. Captain Greene, tank company commander at your service.

"You're in control of 65-70 tons of steel, traveling at 40-45 miles per hour. It's a thrill," he says. "I've driven tanks. I've fired them. I've loaded them.

"I believe in America. I believe in the flag. I believe in freedom. I believe a strong national defense is the only way to deter foreign military aggression."

Non-patriotic he's not.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

PHOTO FILE

Several Steelers departed in the off-season via free-agency, but Keven Greene will probably be the one that Steelers fans miss the most.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

"Atilla the Haig," former Rams cornerback LeRoy Irvin once called him. "You know, Alexander Haig. To me, he's all about hitting the beach and dropping grenades. He talks military all the time. He wears those fatigues. And he always talks about 0700 hours. He's not from here. He's not from Earth."

"Hey," Greene points out, "this is pro football. Heck, this baby gets ugly. Only animals play this game. A linebacker is ugly, slobbery and drooling. Hey, I'm him. I'm an emotional person. I just let it flow. I'm not one to hold back what I feel."

In fact, Greene is so emotional that if he ever became a football coach he would be . . . Bill Cowher!

"Fortunately," Greene says, "I've never been on the receiving end of a severe butt-chewing from Coach Cowher yet. Although I hear it's quite exhilarating. Feeling all that slobber and spit come your way . . . you can't dodge 'em all."

His heroes range from general George Patton to Hulk Hogan, and since Greene began allowing his blonde locks to bloom during the 1994 season, he has been compared to the latter.

"Every time I see him on television," said Macho Man Randy Savage, "I think I'm seeing Hulk Hogan running around the field."

It was during Super Bowl week that he took an opportunity not only to meet Hogan, but to wrestle on his side of the mat. Greene, two teammates and a Steelers trainer took a private jet from Phoenix to Las Vegas courtesy of World Championship Wrestling. Greene appeared on the televised show, traded insults with Hogan's opponent, Ric Flair, then helped Hogan and Savage toss two wrestlers out of the ring.

RICK DIAMOND

The WWF and WCW will have to wait until after his football career is finished, said Kevin Greene at a press conference announcing him as a PLAYERS INC spokesman.

Some writers criticized Greene for those antics five days before the Super Bowl, even though it was the players' day off and what he did in the ring hardly approached the danger of a typical football practice.

"I figured I could sit in my room and beat my head against the wall," Greene says, "take the car they give us and drive 500 miles, or go where the action is."

Typically, Greene chose the action.

"Kevin Greene will definitely have a second career in pro wrestling," Steelers quarterback Mike Tomczak says. "You know, that's how second careers get started. Get to the Super Bowl and you get offered things. Kevin will be great in pro wrestling someday. He's got the hair, and he's got the integrity."

Integrity? This **IS** pro wrestling we're talking about, correct? Anyway, the WCW has been pursuing Greene to join them and he might, once his football career ends. But he's not ready to end it just yet. Greene's sack total slipped from a league-leading 14 in 1994 to nine last season and some football people believed the end was near. Kevin Greene was not among them, of course. He attracted more double teams and even without that there are many pass-rushers in the NFL who would like to have had nine sacks last season.

He broke his hand in a preseason game, but did not miss a start because of it and never used it as an excuse. He has remained healthy throughout his career and believes he has several good seasons left.

"I look back and I say, "Where has the time gone?" For some reason, year-in and year out, I've been blessed by the good Lord with athletic ability and health. Last season was my 11th season and I have healthy virgin knees. My knees have never even been scoped. This is a miracle in itself to have played 11 years in the NFL and not even have a scope. There's nothing wrong with my knees."

Nothing wrong with the knees, nothing wrong with the passion, nothing wrong with the results.

"I see a lot of athletes just playing the game to put money in the bank," Greene sneers. "That's not the way this game is supposed to be played. Sure, all of that stuff on the outside is great to have, but you have to play this game for the love of the game. You've got to miss it in the offseason and you've got to look forward to it when the season's coming."

Why stop now? Up ahead there's another long line of fans waiting in the cold for playoff tickets, waiting for Kevin Greene to appear.

Ed Bouchette covers the Pittsburgh Steelers for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

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PLAY FOOTBALL

PLAYERS INC

TIM BROWN

BY KELLY CARTER

It is a drizzly spring afternoon and several of the Raiders have flocked to a bowling alley near LAX after working out. As they roll strikes, they express themselves in various ways. There's James Jett doing a hip-gyrating thing. Billy Joe Hobert bellows loudly enough to rattle the pins. Then there's Tim Brown, who merely raises his arms in exultation.

So typical of Tim. The conservative one of the bunch.

"I'm basically a very boring person, but I really like it," says Brown, the Raiders' Pro Bowl receiver.

If anyone out there thinks all NFL players have outspoken personalities ala Deion Sanders, think again and meet Tim Brown.

"I come from a very, very religious family where only the right things in life were accepted." says Brown, who grew up in Dallas and is one of six children. "Smoking and drinking and all that kind of stuff just was not something you even thought about doing."

Bowling, golfing and going to the movies area about the extent of his social activities. If his teammates are going to a club, they know not to call.

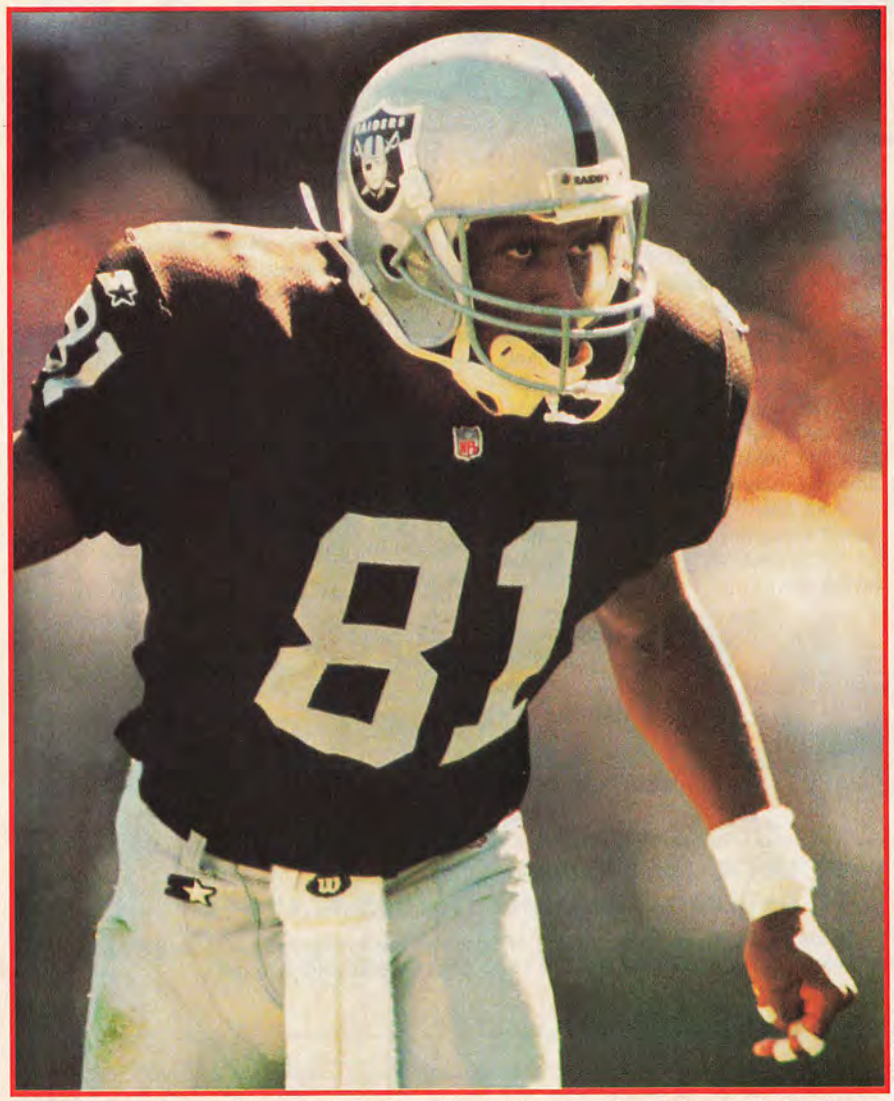

PHOTO FILE

With five Pro Bowls behind him, Tim Brown is clearly the anchor of the Raider's offense.

"Timmie is a real nice guy," says teammate Harvey Williams, "but he's reeaal conservative."

Brown gets some ribbing from his teammates but never maliciously.

"He has a presence on this football team," Williams says. "He's been there. He's one of the Heisman Trophy winners. He goes to the Pro Bowl every year. You've got to respect a guy like that. We tease him a lot, but also we've got a lot of respect for him too and a lot of people look up to him. And I'm one of them."

Brown does not strut around with a holier-than-thou attitude, which is another reason his teammates respect him so. Although projecting a positive image comes easily, he said he does not think there should be anything anyone HAS to do.

"I just believe there's certain things you should want to do," Brown says. "Every time I go to that stadium and I see maybe 100 people who may have my jersey on, I feel I owe those people something. I'm somewhat responsible for how they look at me. I take that to heart. For me, it's not a situation where I have to constantly think about that because I am who I am.

"I'm never in a situation where I'm out at a bar and I'm about to be in a fight and I have to think, 'Well, is this really good for my image?' because I'm hardly ever at bars, if ever. No one is asking you to be a role model, but the bottom line is when you have 4 and 5 and 8, 9, 10-year-old kids who are looking up to you, you owe those kids something. It's incumbent upon athletes to some kind of way control themselves while they're out in public. Whatever you want to do in the privacy of you own home you should."

Brown just doesn't talk the talk. He walks the walk too. He is heavily involved in Athletes & Entertainers for Kids, a charity that empowers underprivileged children through positive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45

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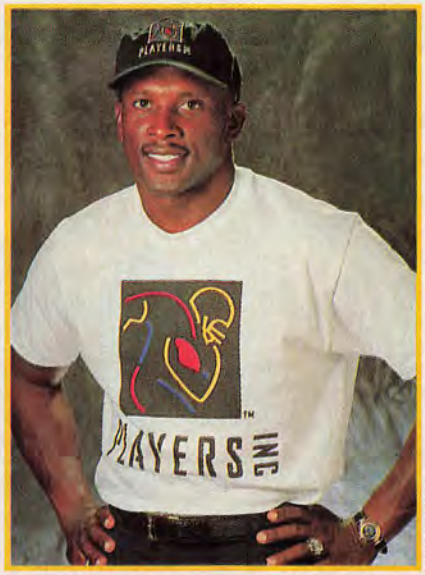
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

mentoring and a stay-in-school program. Brown was recently named its chairman of the board of directors. For each touchdown he scored in 1995, Brown donated $500 to the organization and Los Angeles' Jordan High School, where Willie Brown, the Raiders' director of squad development and one of Brown's fellow bowling partners on this particular day, once coached. Brown also has a miniature golf tournament to benefit Athletes & Entertainers for Kids and another golf tournament to raise money for the elderly and provide free day care.

When the Raiders made Brown their first-round draft pick (No. 6 overall) in 1988, he knew he eventually wanted to do something special for children. He does not have any children of his own but spends many weekends in the off-season taking his nieces and nephews on various activities around the Dallas area. "There's no limitation," says Brown's older brother Donald Kelly. "If they're out of diapers, he has them. You would imagine that he's their favorite uncle."

Brown, who turns 30 on July 22, says he wants to get married so he can have children while he's "relatively young."

"He says all of the time he's probably the only guy in the NFL that desires to get married," Kelly says. He has been dating the same woman the last two years and while he did not say he's ready for marriage, he did say, "I'm getting too old to keep this dating thing going." Kelly said it is not every woman who could date his brother. They have to understand what kind of person he is and shun the spotlight. Brown says his sweetheart is just like him.



RICK DIAMOND

Tim is shown here modeling the new PLAYERS INC clothing line.

"That's one of the requirements; in order to be with me you have to be as boring as I am," Brown says with a laugh.

And they must be into the family thing. While Brown says the best part of being a professional athlete is the money the worst is being away from his family in DeSoto, a Dallas suburb and his permanent residence.

Judging from how well Brown's career with the Raiders is going, it could be a while before he gets to spend as much time as he would like with his family. When his NFL career comes to an end, he already knows what avenues he would like to pursue. When he was injured in 1989 he started forming his company ProMoves, an athletic shoe and sports apparel company. It was incorporated in 1991 and by 1992 his shoes were in Foot Locker. About 10 to 15 players, including Marcus Allen, Steve Beuerlein and Spud Web of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves, have worn his shoes over the years. Kelly, president of ProMoves, predicts that his brother's business prospects after of football will surpass the ones before him now. In fact, Brown is already getting plenty of practice dealing with business men and women as a corporate spokesman for PLAYERS INC., the licensing and marketing subsidiary of the NFL Players Association.

"It is a very interesting opportunity for me to go out and meet a lot of corporate people and get my name in a different arena to help me with post-career stuff," Brown said.

Depending on how well his own company is doing in his post-NFL days, Brown could also see himself returning to Dallas' Woodrow Wilson High School, which he attended, and coaching football or pursuing a broadcasting career. Brown has been known to speak his mind but he wasn't always that way. Not that he didn't want to but a lisp prevented him from saying what he desired.

"I was nervous and scared and tired of being teased about it," said Brown, who corrected his problem through speech therapy after his rookie season. "I had to plan my words very carefully because I didn't want to say the words that I really had trouble with. So consequently I was a lot more quiet than I am now. Now that I know how to talk, I talk all of the time."

Except for when he bowls a strike.

Kelly Carter covers the NFL for USA Today.

FRANK WOSCHITZ

Tim Brown with Shannon Sharpe at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

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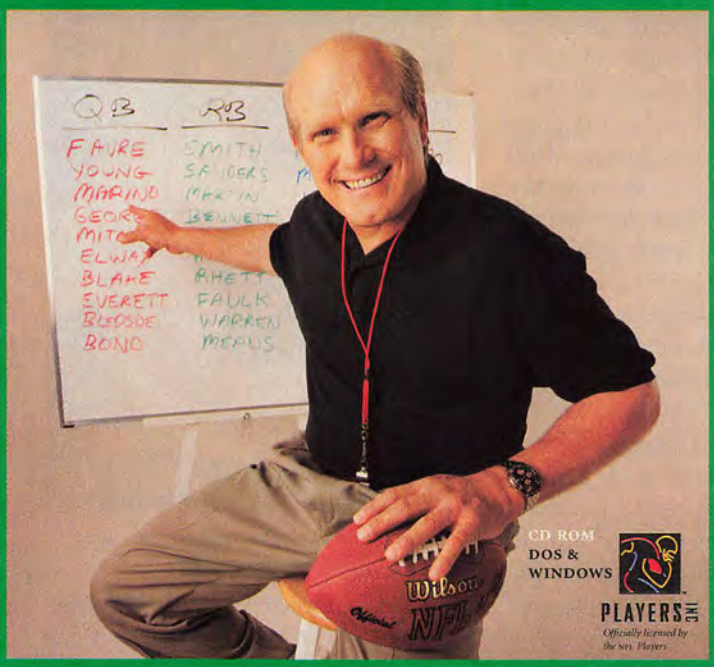

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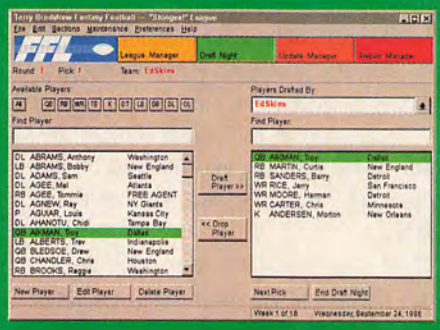

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UNSUNG HEROES HONORED AT NFL PLAYERS AWARDS BANQUET

BY DAWN RIDLEY

In a culmination of nationwide voting by players and fans, PLAYERS INC and the NFL Players Association honored 30 Unsung Heroes on March 8, 1996. The banquet, which benefited Special Olympics, was sponsored by Playoff, the trading card manufacturer that developed the concept in 1994. The now-familiar petition by Green Bay Packer John Jurkovic fans for a "Jurkovic" trading card inspired Playoff to create a set of trading cards to showcase football's "Unsung Heroes". The card set features NFL players who are not typically in the spotlight; these players are heroes both on the playing field and in their communities.

Voting for the 1996 Unsung Heroes was conducted on-line, through trading card publications, and by all thirty NFL teams. SportsLine USA, the Official On-line service of PLAYERS INC gathered votes from around the country through e-mail. One on-line vote for Wayne Chrebet of the New York Jets came from Christina Aniello of Brooklyn, New York who said, "He wasn't even supposed to make the team, but did and has played his heart out. He is truly an athlete that younger kids can look up to because he plays because of the love for the sport and not the love of money." One lucky Sportsline subscriber, Jason Ward, 19, of Oneonta, New York, won a trip to the NFL Players Awards banquet and a chance to meet his "Unsung Hero".

Krause Publications, another banquet sponsor, conducted voting through its trading card publications, Sports Collectors Digest and Sports Card Magazine. Fans from ages 7 to 70 had something to say about who they felt should be honored. "Kordell Stewart has been the Pittsburgh playmaker. He has come early to every game and has sat on the bench. He has made his share of magic on and off the field. GOOD JOB, KORDELL!" says Kiel Kauffeld, age 11 from Greentown, Pennsylvania.

Additionally, each player in the NFL had the opportunity to vote for the Unsung Hero on their team. The players see what goes on behind the scenes and are able to judge characteristics that fans and the media may not readily perceive. Many of the award winners noted that the recognition from their teammates was especially gratifying.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 49

Roy Firestone from ESPN interviews Bill Bates from the Dallas Cowboys at the Playoff/NFL Players Unsung Heroes Banquet.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

The banquet was an unqualified success, not only for the players and attendees, but also for Special Olympics. Over $200,000 was raised during the event, which will go to DC Special Olympics. The evening was hosted by ESPN's Roy Firestone, who entertained the group of 1,000 with his humorous commentary. Firestone was also on hand after the banquet to sign copies of his book, with all proceeds going to Special Olympics.

Each banquet attendee had a opportunity to rub shoulders with the likes of Bill Bates of the Dallas Cowboys and Bernie Parmalee of the Miami Dolphins at the cocktail party preceding the banquet. Fans and collectors had a chance to obtain autographs from their favorite players on the exclusive NFL Unsung Heroes Awards Banquet trading card sets. This set of 30 cards was presented in a black leather jewel box embossed with "Playoff Unsung Heroes, March 8, 1996" is a true collectors item. A slightly different card will be featured as an insert set in Playoff's 1996 Absolute and Prime trading card products.

Many of the players honored had never been featured on a trading card. "This is my first card. It really means a lot because the fans and players selected me," said Ray Brown of the Washington Redskins. These players toil on the gridiron, often without the accolades they deserve. They are important to their teams and their communities, and as Anne Selby, Director of Membership Services for the NFLPA and the coordinator of the banquet, said "They are just a fantastic group of guys."

EUGENE ROBINSON: unsung hero of the Seattle Seahawks.

RAY BROWN: unsung hero of the Washington Redskins.

An example of the dedication that is exemplified in these players is the journey of Sam Gash of the New England Patriots. When inclement weather prevented him from flying out of Logan airport in Boston, Gash hopped aboard a train for a 14 hour trip to Washington, DC. "I knew I had to get here", said Gash. "It was for a good cause."

1996 PLAYOFF UNSUNG HEROES

Larry Centers	Arizona Cardinals
Jessie Tuggle	Atlanta Falcons
Steve Tasker	Buffalo Bills
Robert Green	Chicago Bears
Bennie Thompson	Cleveland Browns
Eric Bieniemy	Cincinnati Bengals
Sam Mills	Carolina Panthers
Reggie Rivers	Denver Broncos
Bill Bates	Dallas Cowboys
Rodney Holman	Detroit Lions
Mark Chmura	Green Bay Packers
Blaine Bishop	Houston Oilers
Jim Harbaugh	Indianapolis Colts
Mark Brunell	Jacksonville Jaguars
Tim Grunhard	Kansas City Chiefs
Bernie Parmalee	Miami Dolphins
Jeff Brady	Minnesota Vikings
Sam Gash	New England Patriots
J.J. McCleskey	New Orleans Saints
Keith Elias	New York Giants
Wayne Chrebet	New York Jets
Vince Evans	Oakland Raiders
Andy Harmon	Philadelphia Eagles
Kordell Stewart	Pittsburgh Steelers
Dwayne Harper	San Diego Chargers
Derek Loville	San Francisco 49ers
Isaac Bruce	St. Louis Rams
Eugene Robinson	Seattle Seahawks
Hardy Nickerson	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Ray Brown	Washington Redskins

INTERVIEW WITH RAY BROWN

We had the opportunity to speak with Ray Brown, an offensive lineman who has been with the Washington Redskins for seven seasons. Ray is heading to San Francisco to give the 49ers the strength and size that the Redskins have enjoyed for so long with Brown. Washington will miss this very sincere, giving man whose presence has been felt on and off the field.

DR: What did you think about the banquet?

RB: It was great! Not only did I have a good time, but were also helping an important charity. These events give players a chance to be involved with various organizations that they may not have been able to work with before.

DR: What about the trading card aspect of the event?

RB: I've never had a trading card before. This is my first card and it will always be special. People make a fuss over salaries and other issues, but trading cards are important to players. It's like a crowning moment in a player's life. I'm honored to be included in this group of guys.

DR: I can't believe you haven't been on a card.

RB: It's easy for an offensive lineman to be overlooked. We don't have any stats other than games started (Laughs). Usually it's the first round guys who are in the spotlight. You have a core group of players who will always be in card sets.

DR: How do you feel about leaving Washington?

RB: Well, it's been great. I think what I'll miss the most is the people - all the friends I've made in the last 7 years. I'm looking forward to making a contribution to the 49ers, though. I think it's a good opportunity to make a difference.

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Quarterbacks (Select 2)

- ❑100 Aikman, Troy (DAL) $39
- ❑101 Blake, Jeff (CIN) 44
- ❑102 Bledsoe, Drew (NE) 38
- ❑103 Bono, Steve (KC) 46
- ❑104 Brown, David (NYG) 37
- ❑105 Brunell, Mark (JAC) 40
- ❑106 Collins, Kerry (CAR) 30
- ❑107 Cunningham, Randall (FrA) 15
- ❑108 Dilfer, Trent (TB) 29
- ❑109 Elway, John (DEN) 52
- ❑110 Erickson, Craig (FrA) 20
- ❑111 Esiason, Boomer (ARZ) 30
- ❑112 Everett, Jim (NO) 49
- ❑113 Favre, Brett (GB) 65
- ❑114 Frerotte, Gus (WAS) 27
- ❑115 George, Jeff (ATL) 50
- ❑116 Harbaugh, Jim (IND) 36
- ❑117 Hostetler, Jeff (OAK) 27
- ❑118 Humphries, Stan (SD) 42
- ❑119 Kelly, Jim (BUF) 41
- ❑120 Kramer, Erik (CHI) 51
- ❑121 Krieg, Dave (FrA) 42
- ❑122 Marino, Dan (MIA) 46
- ❑123 McNair, Steve (HOU) 21
- ❑124 Mirer, Rick (SEA) 34
- ❑125 Mitchell, Scott (DET) 61
- ❑126 Moon, Warren (MIN) 55
- ❑127 O'Donnell, Neil (NYJ) 37
- ❑128 Peete, Rodney (PHI) 32
- ❑129 Testaverde, Vinnie (BAL) 39
- ❑130 Young, Steve (SF) 58
- ❑131 Zeier, Eric (BAL) 40

Running Backs (Select 3)

- ❑200 Allen, Marcus (KC) $29
- ❑201 Allen, Terry (WAS) 42
- ❑202 Anders, Kimble (KC) 18
- ❑203 Bates, Mario (NO) 29
- ❑204 Bennett, Edgar (GB) 46
- ❑205 Bettis, Jerome (PIT) 21
- ❑206 Biakabutuka, Tim (CAR) 20
- ❑207 Bieniemy, Eric (CIN) 20
- ❑208 Butts, Marion (HOU) 25
- ❑209 Byars, Keith (FrA) 23
- ❑210 Byner, Earnest (FrA) 31
- ❑211 Carter, Ki-Jana (CIN) 30
- ❑212 Centers, Larry (ARZ) 43
- ❑213 Craver, Aaron (DEN) 15
- ❑214 Davis, Terell (DEN) 37
- ❑215 Faulk, Marshall Colts 49
- ❑216 Floyd, William (SF) 25
- ❑217 Garner, Charlie (PHI) 25
- ❑218 George, Eddie (HOU) 20
- ❑219 Green, Harold (FrA) 23
- ❑220 Green, Robert (CHI) 15
- ❑221 Hampton, Rodney (NYG) 38
- ❑222 Harmon, Ronnie (FrA) 20
- ❑223 Hearst, Garrison (ARZ) 30
- ❑224 Heyward, Craig (ATL) 38
- ❑225 Hill, Greg (KC) 18
- ❑226 Hoard, Leroy (BAL) 16
- ❑227 Johnston, Daryl (DAL) 20
- ❑228 Kaufman, Napoleon (OAK) 16
- ❑229 Kirby, Terry (MIA) 38
- ❑230 Lee, Amp (MIN) 33
- ❑231 Levens, Dorsey (GB) 21
- ❑232 Loville, Derek (SF) 30
- ❑233 Martin, Curtis (NE) 50
- ❑234 McElroy, Leeland (ARZ) 20
- ❑235 Means, Natrone (JAC) 24
- ❑236 Meggett, Dave (NE) 24
- ❑237 Metcalf, Eric (ATL) 49
- ❑238 Moore, Derrick (CAR) 24
- ❑239 Morris, Bam (PIT) 28
- ❑240 Murrell, Adrian (NYJ) 16
- ❑241 Parmalee, Bernie (MIA) 38
- ❑242 Pegram, Erric (PIT) 30
- ❑243 Phillips, Lawrence (STL) 30
- ❑244 Rhett, Errict (TB) 38
- ❑245 Salaam, Rashaan (CHI) 34
- ❑246 Sanders, Barry (DET) 51
- ❑247 Smith, Emmit (DAL) 72
- ❑248 Smith, Robert (MIN) 23
- ❑249 Stewart, James (JAC) 21
- ❑250 Thomas, Rodney (HOU) 21
- ❑251 Thomas, Thurman (BUF) 35
- ❑252 Walker, Hershel (NYG) 17
- ❑253 Warren, Chris (SEA) 50
- ❑254 Watters, Ricky (PHI) 51
- ❑255 Wheatley, Tyrone (NYG) 15
- ❑256 Williams, Harvey (OAK) 43

Receivers (Select 4)

- ❑400 Battaglia, Marco (CIN) $13
- ❑401 Beebe, Don (GB) 20
- ❑402 Birden, J.J. (ATL) 15
- ❑403 Blades, Brian (SEA) 30
- ❑404 Brisby, Vincent (NE) 27
- ❑405 Brooks, Bill (FrA) 30
- ❑406 Brooks, Robert (GB) 48
- ❑407 Brown, Tim (OAK) 42
- ❑408 Bruce, Isaac (STL) 52
- ❑409 Calloway, Chris (NYG) 15
- ❑410 Carrier, Mark (CAR) 22
- ❑411 Carter, Cris (MIN) 54
- ❑412 Chmura, Mark (GB) 22
- ❑413 Clark, Gary (MIA) 20
- ❑414 Coates, Ben (NE) 31
- ❑415 Conway, Curtis (CHI) 36
- ❑416 Davis, Willie (HOU) 22
- ❑417 Dawkins, Sean (IND) 22
- ❑418 Dawson, Lake (KC) 19
- ❑419 Drayton, Troy (STL) 22
- ❑420 Dudley, Rickey (OAK) 15
- ❑421 Early, Quinn (BUF) 35
- ❑422 Ellard, Henry (WAS) 28
- ❑423 Emanuel, Bert (ATL) 30
- ❑424 Fryar, Irving (PHI) 30
- ❑425 Galloway, Joey (SEA) 28
- ❑426 Glenn, Terry (NE) 20
- ❑427 Graham, Jeff (NYJ) 29
- ❑428 Green, Eric (MIA) 17
- ❑429 Green, Willie (CAR) 13
- ❑430 Harrison, Marvin (IND) 15
- ❑431 Haynes, Michael (NO) 19
- ❑432 Irvin, Michael (DAL) 49
- ❑433 Ismail, Qadry (MIN) 17
- ❑434 Ismail, Raghib (OAK) 15
- ❑435 Jackson, Keith (FrA) 20
- ❑436 Jackson, Michael (BAL) 26
- ❑437 Jeffiries, Haywood (HOU) 27
- ❑438 Jennings, Keith (CHI) 15
- ❑439 Johnson, Keyshawn (NYJ) 25
- ❑440 Jones, Brent (SF) 20
- ❑441 Kennison, Eddie (STL) 15
- ❑442 Kinchen, Todd (STL) 15
- ❑443 Martin, Tony (SD) 36
- ❑444 Mathis, Terance (ATL) 36
- ❑445 McCardell, Keenan (JAC) 18
- ❑446 McDuffie, O.J. (MIA) 29
- ❑447 McGee, Tony (CIN) 14
- ❑448 Miller, Anthony (DEN) 37
- ❑449 Mills, Ernie (PIT) 26
- ❑450 Mitchell, Johnny (NYJ) 19
- ❑451 Moore, Herman (DET) 56
- ❑452 Moore, Rob (ARZ) 28
- ❑453 Moore, Will (NE) 25
- ❑454 Morton, Johnnie (DET) 19
- ❑455 Moulds, Eric (BUF) 20
- ❑456 Novacek, Jay (DAL) 24
- ❑457 Perriman, Brett (DET) 46
- ❑458 Pickens, Carl (CIN) 49
- ❑459 Pritchard, Mike (DEN) 17
- ❑460 Reed, Andre (BUF) 17
- ❑461 Reed, Jake (MIN) 35
- ❑462 Rice, Jerry (SF) 60
- ❑463 Rison, Andre (BAL) 32
- ❑464 Sanders, Chris (HOU) 19
- ❑465 Sanders, Deion (DAL) 25
- ❑466 Sanders, Frank (ARZ) 18
- ❑467 Scott, Darnay (CIN) 34
- ❑468 Sharpe, Shannon (DEN) 25
- ❑469 Sherrard, Mike (NYG) 23
- ❑470 Slaughter, Webster (FrA) 17
- ❑471 Small, Torrance (NO) 19
- ❑472 Stokes, J.J. (SF) 18
- ❑473 Thigpen, Yancey (PIT) 29
- ❑474 Toomer, Amani (NYG) 20
- ❑475 Turner, Floyd (IND) 26
- ❑476 Van Dyle, Alex (NYJ) 20
- ❑477 Walls, Wesley (NO) 15
- ❑478 Westbrook, Michael (WAS) 16

Placekickers (Select 2)

- ❑600 Andersen, Morten (ATL) $38
- ❑601 Anderson, Gary (PIT) 31
- ❑602 Bahr, Matt (NE) 30
- ❑603 Blanchard, Cary (NO) 28
- ❑604 Boniol, Chris (DAL) 33
- ❑605 Brien, Doug (NO) 29
- ❑606 Butler, Kevin (CHI) 29
- ❑607 Carney, John (SD) 26
- ❑608 Christie, Steve (BUF) 34
- ❑609 Daluiso, Brad (NYG) 26
- ❑610 Davis, Greg (ARZ) 32
- ❑611 Del Greco, Al (HOU) 38
- ❑612 Elam, Jason (DEN) 39
- ❑613 Elliott, Lin (KC) 32
- ❑614 Hanson, Jason (DET) 36
- ❑615 Hollis, M (JAC) 24
- ❑616 Husted, Michael (TB) 28
- ❑617 Jacke, Chris (GB) 33
- ❑618 Jaeger, Jeff (OAK) 20
- ❑619 Johnson, Norm (PIT) 40
- ❑620 Kasay, John (CAR) 34
- ❑621 Lohmiller, Chip (STL) 20
- ❑622 Lowery, Nick (NYJ) 24
- ❑623 Murray, Eddie (PHI) 22
- ❑624 Pelfrey, Doug (CIN) 38
- ❑625 Peterson, Todd (SEA) 31
- ❑626 Reveiz, Fuad (MIN) 37
- ❑627 Stover, Matt (BAL) 33
- ❑628 Stoyanovich, Pete (MIA) 35
- ❑629 Wilkens, J (SF) 28

Defenses/Special Teams (Select 1)

- ❑700 Arizona $35
- ❑701 Atlanta 28
- ❑702 Baltimore 24
- ❑703 Buffalo 28
- ❑704 Carolina 32
- ❑705 Chicago 26
- ❑706 Cincinnati 25
- ❑707 Dallas 27
- ❑708 Denver 20
- ❑709 Detroit 29
- ❑710 Green Bay 20
- ❑711 Houston 31
- ❑712 Indianapolis 25
- ❑713 Jacksonville 22
- ❑714 Kansas 36
- ❑715 Miami 25
- ❑716 Minnesota 36
- ❑717 New England 24
- ❑718 New Orleans 26
- ❑719 New York Gts 30
- ❑720 New York Jts 32
- ❑721 Oakland 34
- ❑722 Philadelphia 37
- ❑723 Pittsburgh 34
- ❑724 San Diego 31
- ❑725 San Francisco 36
- ❑726 Seattle 25
- ❑727 St. Louis 33
- ❑728 Tampa Bay 24
- ❑729 Washington 30

Entire rosters listed in your game kit for future trading.

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ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 8/30/96.
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❑ MR. ❑ MS. PLEASE FILL OUT IN CLEAR, CAPITAL LETTERS Source 25

LAST NAME FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

$ REQUIRED – ENTER SALARY TOTAL (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO $420)

HOME PHONE

YOUR TEAM NAME

CREDIT CARD NUMBER (Visa, MC, Discover accepted.) EXP. DATE

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How many national fantasy football games offer weekly television exposure, local 25-team leagues, and cash and trip prizes?

A:

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End of Season National Prizes

1st:	**$15,000**	5th:	$750
2nd:	$5,000	6th-10th:	$500
3rd:	$2,000	11th-20th:	$150
4th:	$1,000	21st-50th:	$75

VIP Super Bowl XXXI Trip

Random drawing at end of season. Qualify for drawing by beating the average of Norm and Steve's cumulative score.

One BIG Week

$10,000 for Single Highest Weekly Score

End of Season League Prizes

1st: $150 2nd: $75 3rd: $50

$20 discount on future games for Top 10 in each league.

Weekly Prizes

1st-10th: Great Merchandise
11th-20th: 3 Free Trades

Winners profiled, and Top 10 Leader Board featured on Fantasy Football Weekly.

Scoring System

PASSING	PTS.
Pass for TD 40+ yds	6
Pass for TD <40 yds	3
Every 50 yds	2
Pass for 2 pt conv	1

RUSH/RECEIVE	PTS.
Rush/receive TD 40+ yds	9
Rush/receive TD <40 yds	6
Every 25 yds	2
2 pt conv	2

KICKING	PTS.
Field Goal 40+ yds	6
Field Goal <40 yds	3
Extra Point	1

DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS	PTS.
Defense TD	6
Kick/Punt Return TD	6
Fum Rec/Int	2
Safety	2
Sack	1

Unlimited Trades • $2.50 each

Salary Upgrades after weeks 5, 8, 11 and 14

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NFL PLAYERS

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PRIME SPORTS REALITY CHECK

A Fantasy Football Draft Preview
Broadcast August 13, 8 PM EST

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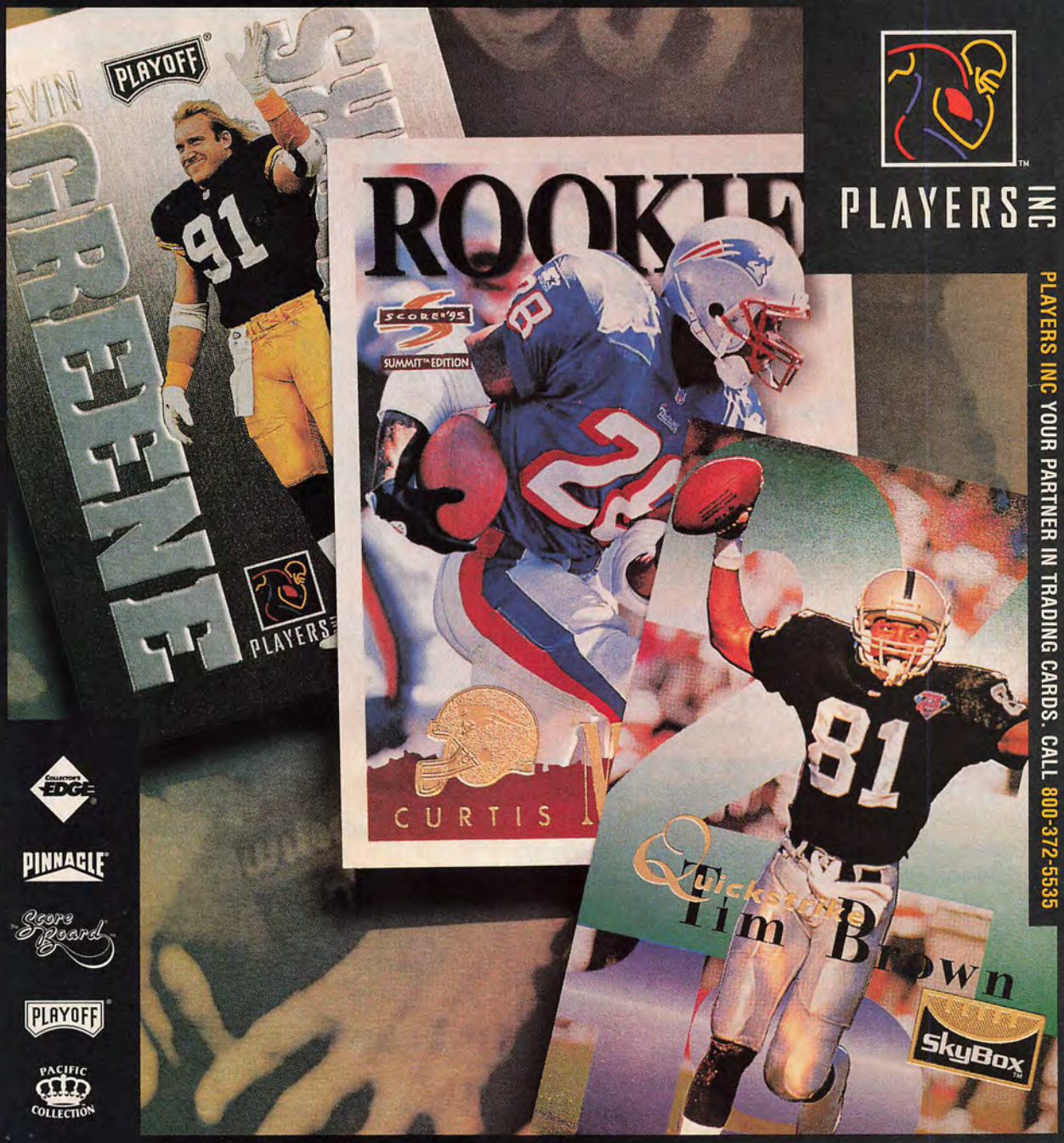

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NFL PLAYERS CHALLENGE

PLAYERS INC

You see them on the field every Sunday—but how well do you really know the men who make up the 30 NFL teams? Teams are divided into seven position groups—quarterback, running back, receiver, offensive line, defensive line, linebacker and secondary. Below are seven player profiles—one from each position group. See how much of a die-hard fan you really are by guessing each player's identity. Prizes will be awarded to the entries with the most correct answers. Grand prizes will be drawn from the pool of contestants who know six or more players:

QUESTIONS

QUARTERBACK

You may spot this QB decked out in Ralph Lauren or shooting pool at the local billiards hall. At home, he logs on the internet from his Macintosh computer. Some unsuspecting fans may have already chatted with him directly through America On Line. To keep in shape, he swims and also works out at a gym owned by one of his Offensive Linemen—but not until he's had his favorite breakfast of Lucky Charms cereal! He is also a supporter and contributor of the Boys and Girls Club of America.

A) Steve Beuerlein, Carolina Panthers
B) Drew Bledsoe, New England Patriots
C) Jim Harbaugh, Indianapolis Colts

RUNNING BACK

He's a NASCAR enthusiast and fan of driver Dale Earnhardt. His hobbies are collecting sports memorabilia from all four major sports leagues and using his home computer. Off the field he sports a Rolex on his wrist, and on game day, Reeboks on his feet. Having a wide range of food tastes, his day may begin with a bowl of Fruity Pebbles and wind up with dinner at his favorite restaurant—Houstons. His musical interests are just as diverse, as he enjoys classical, R&B and oldies.

A) Edgar Bennett, Green Bay Packers
B) Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys
C) Thurman Thomas, Buffalo Bills

RECEIVER

This WR has some fascinating off the field interests. He's a fan of rap music, as well as a keyboard player. He frequently flies Northwest Airlines, where he is probably heading to the water for fishing or water sports. At home, he may chat on line through his IBM computer, or maybe shoot some pool or play a round of golf. He also enjoys cooking seafood and pasta.

A) Robert Brooks, Green Bay Packers
B) Sean Dawkins, Indianapolis Colts
C) Mike Pritchard, Denver Broncos

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

His daily ride is a Mustang convertible, but on weekends he can be seen tooling around in his classic '68 Impala convertible. He is a NASCAR fan, and his favorite driver is Rusty Wallace. His favorite cereal is Frosted Flakes. He collects football, baseball and basketball memorabilia, enjoys water sports and likes listening to oldies.

A) Larry Allen, Dallas Cowboys
B) Antone Davis, Philadelphia Eagles
C) Bob Whitfield, Atlanta Falcons

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

This big guys admits to loving Frosted Flakes. He may spend

his free time fishing, skiing, golfing or on the water, but wherever he goes, he'll likely get there on American West Airlines. Also a fan of cooking, he claims he likes to cook just about anything. An interesting fact, he is one of a few players in the contest who's favorite video game is NOT Madden Football.

A) D'Marco Farr, St. Louis Rams
B) Dan Saleaumua, Kansas City Chiefs
C) Dan Wilkinson, Cincinnati Bengals

LINEBACKER

This LB is a class act, sporting Armani sunglasses while cruising with the top down in in his Mercedes Benz. When dining out, he likes a good steak at the Outback. But when cooking at home, his tastes head down south to Mexico. He may spend his weekends riding his bike or working out at the World Gym. But for relaxation, it's listening to jazz and collecting football memorabilia. Although this player owns a PC, he has yet to surf the internet.

A) Cornelius Bennett, Atlanta Falcons;
B) Seth Joyner, Arizona Cardinals
C) Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

SECONDARY

This guy likes his sleek sports cars. He owns a Trans Am and a Dodge Viper. When it comes to pro driving, he's a fan of NHRA drag racing and NASCAR — especially driver Jeff Gordon. An avid tennis player, he cools off after a game with a frosty root beer. On the field you'll see him wearing his Converse shoes and a Breathe Right Nasal Strip. After work, he listens to jazz and R&B, and also collects football and basketball memorabilia. He is very involved with charities to benefit sickle cell anemia.

A) Eric Allen, New Orleans Saints
B) Tim McDonald, San Francisco 49ers
C) Bubba McDowell, Carolina Panther

PRIZES

5 Grand Prizes: Authentic PROLINE JERSEY — Autographed by Tim Brown.

10 First Prizes: Sega Prime Time Video Games for Sega Genesis.

15 Second Prizes: One box of 1996 Fleer Ultra Trading Cards.

20 Third Prizes: An authentic PLAYERS INC cap.

Because all personal players information is confidential, answers will not be published.

CONTEST RULES

1. No Purchase Necessary.
2. Contest is open to anyone except employees of Conde' Nast Publications and PLAYERS INC.
3. Only one entry per person, per envelope. All entries must be postmarked by October 1, 1996.
4. Photocopies are acceptable.
5. Mail each entry to: PLAYERS INC, 2021 L ST. NW, Washington, DC 20036.
6. Winners will be selected in a random drawing from all entries. Drawing date is October 5, 1996. Odds of winning are determined by the number of entries. Decisions of the judges will be final.
7. Winners will be notified by mail.
8. All entries become the property of PLAYERS INC.
9. Only one prizewinner per household.
10. Contest void where prohibited.

NFL PLAYERS CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

ANSWER SHEET

(CIRCLE ONE PER QUESTION)

QUARTERBACK
A) Steve Beuerlein, Carolina Panthers
B) Drew Bledsoe, New England Patriots
C) Jim Harbaugh, Indianapolis Colts

RUNNING BACK
A) Edgar Bennett, Green Bay Packers
B) Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys
C) Thurman Thomas, Buffalo Bills

RECEIVER
A) Robert Brooks, Green Bay Packers
B) Sean Dawkins, Indianapolis Colts
C) Mike Pritchard, Denver Broncos

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN
A) Larry Allen, Dallas Cowboys
B) Antone Davis, Philadelphia Eagles
C) Bob Whitfield, Atlanta Falcons

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN
A) D'Marco Farr, St. Louis Rams
B) Dan Saleaumua, Kansas City Chiefs
C) Dan Wilkinson, Cincinnati Bengals

LINEBACKER
A) Cornelius Bennett, Atlanta Falcons
B) Seth Joyner, Arizona Cardinals
C) Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

SECONDARY
A) Eric Allen, New Orleans Saints
B) Tim McDonald, San Francisco 49ers
C) Bubba McDowell, Carolina Panthers

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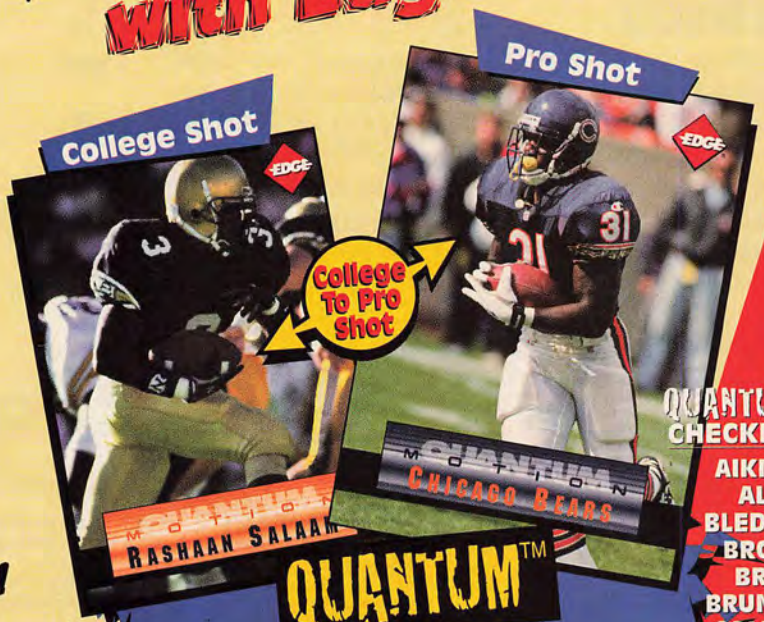

FRONT CHANGES FROM COLLEGE SHOT TO PRO SHOT
24 CARDS ODDS 1:36

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GEORGE
KIRBY
MARINO
MEANS
PICKENS
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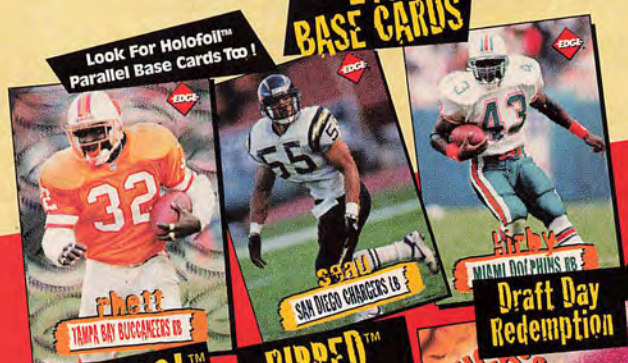

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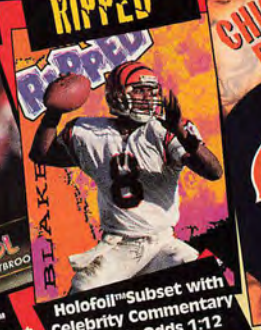

Holofoil™ Subset with Celebrity Commentary 36 Cards Odds 1:12

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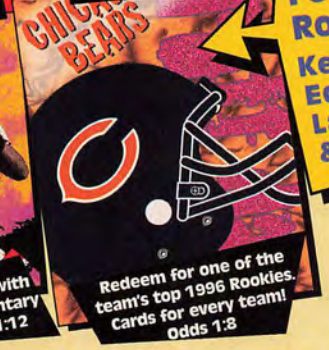

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PRIMESTAR® Presents

NFL SCHEDULE 1996

Sunday, September 1
Arizona at Indianapolis
Cincinnati at St. Louis
Detroit at Minnesota
Kansas City at Houston
Atlanta at Carolina
New Orleans at San Francisco
Oakland at Baltimore
Philadelphia at Washington
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
Seattle at San Diego
N.Y. Jets at Denver
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
New England at Miami
Buffalo at N.Y. Giants (N)

Monday, September 2
Dallas at Chicago (N)

Sunday, September 8
Carolina at New Orleans
Oakland at Kansas City
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Chicago at Washington
Cincinnati at San Diego
Denver at Seattle
Houston at Jacksonville
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
Minnesota at Atlanta
New England at Buffalo
St. Louis at San Francisco
Tampa Bay at Detroit
N.Y. Giants at Dallas
Miami at Arizona (N)

Monday, September 9
Philadelphia at Green Bay (N)

Sunday, September 15
(Open Dates: Atlanta, Carolina, San Francisco, St. Louis)
Baltimore at Houston
Minnesota at Chicago
San Diego at Green Bay
Arizona at New England
Detroit at Philadelphia
Jacksonville at Oakland
Kansas City at Seattle
N.Y. Jets at Miami
New Orleans at Cincinnati
Indianapolis at Dallas
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Tampa Bay at Denver (N)

Monday, September 16
Buffalo at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, September 22
(Open Dates: Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, Pittsburgh)
Arizona at New Orleans
Denver at Kansas City
Green Bay at Minnesota
Washington at St. Louis
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets
San Diego at Oakland
San Francisco at Carolina
Seattle at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Detroit
Dallas at Buffalo
Jacksonville at New England
Philadelphia at Atlanta (N)

Monday, September 23
Miami at Indianapolis (N)

Sunday, September 29
(Open Dates: Buffalo, Indianapolis, Miami, New England)
Oakland at Chicago
Atlanta at San Francisco
Carolina at Jacksonville
Denver at Cincinnati
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Seattle
Houston at Pittsburgh
Kansas City at San Diego
Minnesota at N.Y. Giants
New Orleans at Baltimore
St. Louis at Arizona
N.Y. Jets at Washington (N)

Monday, September 30
Dallas at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, October 6
(Open Dates: Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay, Washington)
Carolina at Minnesota
Green Bay at Chicago
Atlanta at Detroit
New England at Baltimore
Oakland at N.Y. Jets
Seattle at Miami
San Diego at Denver
Jacksonville at New Orleans
San Francisco at St. Louis
Indianapolis at Buffalo
Houston at Cincinnati (N)

Monday, October 7
Pittsburgh at Kansas City (N)

Sunday, October 13
(Open Dates: Denver, Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle)
Arizona at Dallas
Chicago at New Orleans
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Oakland
Houston at Atlanta
Miami at Buffalo
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville
St. Louis at Carolina
Washington at New England
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Baltimore at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, October 14
San Francisco at Green Bay (N)

Thursday, October 17
(Open Dates: Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota)
Seattle at Kansas City (N)

Sunday, October 20
Atlanta at Dallas
New England at Indianapolis
Cincinnati at San Francisco
Miami at Philadelphia
New Orleans at Carolina
Tampa Bay at Arizona
N.Y. Giants at Washington
Baltimore at Denver
Jacksonville at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Houston
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets

Monday, October 21
Oakland at San Diego (N)

Sunday, October 27
(Open Dates: New Orleans, Oakland)
San Francisco at Houston
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
Carolina at Philadelphia
Indianapolis at Washington
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
N.Y. Giants at Detroit
N.Y. Jets at Arizona
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
San Diego at Seattle
St. Louis at Baltimore
Kansas City at Denver
Dallas at Miami
Buffalo at New England (N)

Monday, October 28
Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, November 3
(Open Dates: Jacksonville, N.Y. Jets)
Detroit at Green Bay
Kansas City at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
Carolina at Atlanta
Cincinnati at Baltimore
Houston at Seattle
San Diego at Indianapolis
St. Louis at Pittsburgh
Miami at New England
Washington at Buffalo
San Francisco at New Orleans (N)

Monday, November 4
Denver at Oakland (N)

Sunday, November 10
Atlanta at St. Louis
Green Bay at Kansas City
Houston at New Orleans
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Arizona at Washington
Buffalo at Philadelphia
Dallas at San Francisco
Indianapolis at Miami
Minnesota at Seattle
New England at N.Y. Jets
Oakland at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Denver
Baltimore at Jacksonville
N.Y. Giants at Carolina (N)

Monday, November 11
Detroit at San Diego (N)

Sunday, November 17
Carolina at St. Louis
Chicago at Kansas City
Baltimore at San Francisco
Cincinnati at Buffalo
Denver at New England
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis
New Orleans at Atlanta
Seattle at Detroit
Tampa Bay at San Diego
Washington at Philadelphia
N.Y. Giants at Arizona
Miami at Houston
Minnesota at Oakland (N)

Monday, November 18
Green Bay at Dallas (N)

Sunday, November 24
Carolina at Houston
Denver at Minnesota
Detroit at Chicago
San Diego at Kansas City
Atlanta at Cincinnati
Indianapolis at New England
Jacksonville at Baltimore
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Seattle
San Francisco at Washington
Philadelphia at Arizona
Dallas at N.Y. Giants
Green Bay at St. Louis (N)

Monday, November 25
Pittsburgh at Miami (N)

Thursday, November 28
Kansas City at Detroit
Washington at Dallas

Sunday, December 1
Arizona at Minnesota
Chicago at Green Bay
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Cincinnati at Jacksonville
Miami at Oakland
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Seattle at Denver
St. Louis at New Orleans
Houston at N.Y. Jets
New England at San Diego (N)

Monday, December 2
San Francisco at Atlanta (N)

Thursday, December 5
Philadelphia at Indianapolis (N)

Sunday, December 8
Atlanta at New Orleans
Denver at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Houston
St. Louis at Chicago
Baltimore at Cincinnati
Buffalo at Seattle
Carolina at San Francisco
N.Y. Giants at Miami
San Diego at Pittsburgh
Washington at Tampa Bay
Dallas at Arizona
N.Y. Jets at New England
Minnesota at Detroit (N)
Monday, December 9
Kansas City at Oakland (N)

Saturday, December 14
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets
San Diego at Chicago

Sunday, December 15
Cincinnati at Houston
Indianapolis at Kansas City
New England at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Baltimore at Carolina
Green Bay at Detroit
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants
San Francisco at Pittsburgh
St. Louis at Atlanta
Oakland at Denver
Washington at Arizona
Seattle at Jacksonville (N)

Monday, December 16
Buffalo at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 21
New England at N.Y. Giants
New Orleans at St. Louis

Sunday, December 22
Minnesota at Green Bay
Arizona at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Jacksonville
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Houston at Baltimore
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Buffalo
Miami at N.Y. Jets
Pittsburgh at Carolina
Seattle at Oakland
Dallas at Washington
Denver at San Diego (N)

Monday, December 23
Detroit at San Francisco (N)

Saturday, December 28
Sunday, December 29
NFC and AFC Wild Card Games

Saturday, January 4
Sunday, January 5
Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 12
NFC and AFC Championships

Sunday, January 26
Super Bowl XXXI (New Orleans, LA)

Sunday, February 2
NFC-AFC Pro Bowl (Honolulu, HI)

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Charlie Joiner

Hall of Fame

J. McDONOUGH / NFL PHOTOS

by JIM O'BRIEN

Practice, persistence, and patience, the three "Ps" for aspiring athletes and coaches, are part of the success stories of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 1996.

All five inductees have something in common besides those how-to-succeed steps and a fierce competitive spirit. They started out on the other side of the ball from where they eventually achieved recognition and respect. It was when they switched from defense to offense, or vice versa, that they came into their own.

The 1996 class includes offensive linemen Dan Dierdorf of the St. Louis Cardinals and Lou Creekmur of the Detroit Lions, defensive back Mel Renfro of the Dallas Cowboys, receiver Charlie Joiner, who became a star with his third pro team, the San Diego Chargers, and Joe Gibbs, who coached the Washington Redskins to three victories in four Super Bowl appearances.

They will be inducted in ceremonies on the front steps of the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio on Saturday, July 27. The ceremonies, open free to the public, are followed by the annual AFC-NFC Hall of Fame game, which this summer features the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints.

Charlie Joiner

It took some time for Joiner to find himself in the NFL, starting out with as a defensive back with the Houston Oilers in 1969. He was traded to the Cincinnati Bengals in 1972, and came into his own during an 11-season stint (1976-1986) with the San Diego Chargers. He was a finalist for five years in the Hall of Fame voting. He is the latest of Eddie Robinson's great Grambling players to be so honored. "He taught you how to be responsible in the real world," Joiner said of Robinson.

At 5-11, 180, Joiner was on the small side for receivers, but no one ran his routes with more precision or was more sure-handed. "I was just another little guy running around catching passes," he said.

He played 18 seasons in the NFL, longer than any receiver in pro football history. When he retired in 1986 at age

39, he had caught more passes (750) for more yards (12,146) than any other player up to that time. Those marks were broken by Steve Largent of the Seattle Seahawks, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995.

Ernie Zampese, the Chargers' wide receivers coach late in Joiner's career, said: "They call him 'the Professional,' and he's just flat out one of the great receivers in NFL history. Without question, he was the finest technician, running routes and reading coverages."

Joiner was with the right team with the pass-happy Chargers during the days of quarterback Dan Fouts, offensive backfield coach Joe Gibbs, and head coach Don Coryell of "Air Coryell" fame.

"Gibbs was instrumental in making me the receiver I was," said Joiner. "If it wasn't for Joe Gibbs and Don Coryell, I may not be in the Hall of Fame."

Lou Creekmur

HOF/NFL PHOTOS

None of the new enshrinees had to be as patient as Creekmur to be chosen for the Hall of Fame. He was selected by the special Seniors committee that screens players overlooked in the normal voting process who merit further consideration. Creekmur was a tackle/guard on the Lions' three NFL championship teams in the 1950s, and according to one of his boosters, George Puscas of the *Detroit Free Press*, "was one of the great linemen in pro football history."

Creekmur was big for his day, at 6-4 and 255. He played 10 seasons, was All-Pro six times, and played in the first eight Pro Bowl games (1951-58). At 69, he lives in retirement in Plantation, Florida. Creekmur's bust may be a little different from the rest of this year's class. "If my nose looks off-center from certain angles," said Creekmur, "remember that in the early '50s, a lot of us were two-way players—offense and defense—and the face mask hadn't been invented yet."

A fast-talking native of New Jersey, Creekmur had been an All-America at William & Mary, and also played on the defensive line when he first broke in with the Lions. He had an iron-man reputation when he went both ways.

"We had Bobby Layne and Doak Walker in the backfield," said Creekmur, "and on the line we had Vince Banonis, Dick Stanfel, Harley Sewell, me, Charlie Ane, Ollie Spencer, and Gus Cifelli. On defense, we had Joe Schmidt, Les Bingaman, Dick Flanigan, John Prchlik, LaVern Torgeson, Thurman McGraw—what a group!"

To point up the difference in the approach to pro football in those days, consider that Creekmur was chosen to play in a ninth Pro Bowl, but missed the game because of a conflict with his off-season job in the Detroit trucking industry.

Dan Dierdorf

This honor is especially meaningful to Dierdorf, who grew up not far from the Hall of Fame. He went from Canton to Ann Arbor to play for Bump Elliott and Bo Schembechler at Michigan, where he played offense and defense as a freshman. As a rookie with the Cardinals, the 6-3, 290-pound Dierdorf was used at offensive tackle, guard, center, and even tight end in short-yardage situations.

Voted the best blocker by the NFL Players Association for three consecutive years (1976-78), Dierdorf anchored a line that led the NFC five straight years in fewest sacks allowed. He was named All-Pro five times, to the Pro Bowl six times, and to the league's Team of the Decade. He suffered a knee injury in 1979 and played his last four years virtually on one leg. He thought that might keep him out of the Hall of Fame.

After being a four-time finalist, Dierdorf was delighted by his selection. "I had reached the point where I didn't think it would happen," he admitted. "I thought I was going to be the Susan Lucci of Hall of Famers," a reference to the TV soap opera star and perennial Emmy nominee.

Dierdorf is the third native of Canton—after Marion Motley and Alan Page—to be enshrined. Like them, he came from a different period in pro football and has some old-fashioned ideas.

"I liked the days when a player didn't come out of the ball game," he said. "Jim Brown's ethic of playing every down, 'never let him know how much you're hurt.' I would love to see situational substitution done away with."

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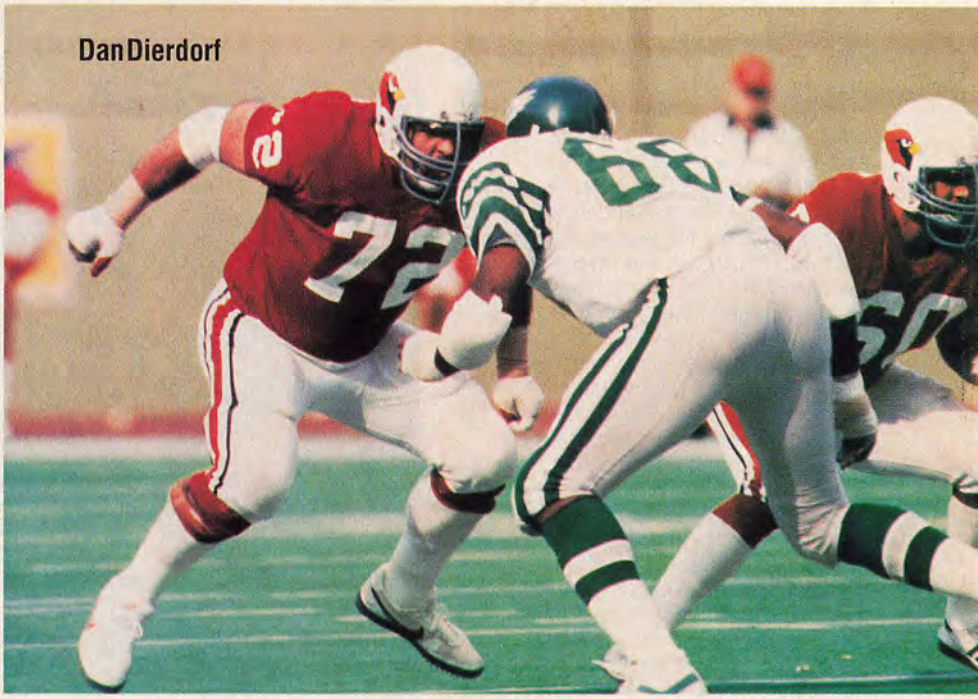


Dan Dierdorf

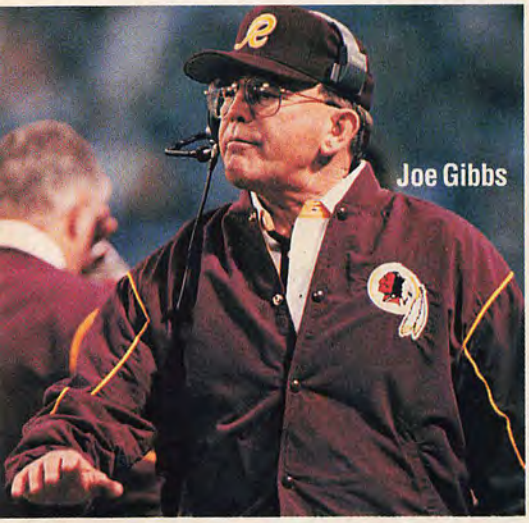
HERB WEITMEN / NFL PHOTOS

Hall of Fame

Joe Gibbs

"I remember when I first started out in coaching, I felt I'd be very fortunate if I could stay at the university level the rest of my life," Gibbs told reporters gathered in Phoenix for Super Bowl XXX, where the 1996 class was chosen. "Then, to end up with the Redskins, well, I never dreamed I'd get that much out of it."

What Gibbs got out of it were three Super Bowl victories in four appearances and a career record of 140-65 in 12 seasons (1981-92) at Washington. His .683 winning percentage is surpassed only by


Joe Gibbs

CHARLES M. BERNHARDT

Vince Lombardi (.740) and John Madden (.731). He started out in the college ranks coaching defense, but came into his own on the offensive side. "My career in coaching was like a magic carpet ride," said Gibbs, now an NFL analyst and race car enthusiast.

Gibbs played at San Diego State under Don Coryell, whose staff he joined in 1964 after graduation. He was later a member of Coryell's staff with the Chargers. Gibbs measures lives by competitiveness and toughness. He believes that if you work hard enough, you will be rewarded. "Sports is the one environment left today where someone's got the hammer, where there is discipline," said Gibbs. "I've always admired that aspect of sports."

He was known as a workaholic, a guy who spent three nights a week sleeping on a couch in his office. He showed up for work Monday morning with suitcase in hand and didn't leave the Redskins' complex to go home until Thursday night. Gibbs's team won Washington's first Super Bowl in the strike-shortened 1982 season, with a 27-17 victory over the Miami Dolphins in Pasadena. In 1983, his team broke the single-season league record for points (541) and again reached the Super Bowl, but lost 38-9 to the Raiders.

Mel Renfro

He was a swift and strong running back and national track star at the University of Oregon. He returned kickoffs and punts with great success when he joined Dallas, where he was converted to defensive back. He suspects it happened because Tom Landry was also the defensive coach when he joined the Cowboys in 1964.

"Landry took me aside and explained that he had Frank Clarke as receiver and had just made trades for Buddy Dial and Tommy McDonald," said Renfro. "He didn't want me to sit on the bench, so he planned to use me at safety until there was an opening on offense."

Renfro excelled at safety for six seasons and at cornerback for eight during his 14-year career with the Cowboys. "I guess I made one fat mistake," said Renfro. "I played defense too well." He was selected to the Pro Bowl each of his first 10 seasons. He led the NFL with 10 interceptions in 1969. He ranked 16th in career interceptions and 12th in kickoff returns.

When he retired after the 1977 season, Renfro reflected on his career, and had one criticism. "I wish they had let me carry the ball," he said. "I liked making All-Pro at cornerback, but I really hated to play it. It was the loneliest job." When he learned that he had been selected to the Hall of Fame, he might have had second thoughts. "It absolutely couldn't have been a better ending to a story if someone had written a book or made a movie about it. I'm just thrilled. This is monumental, fantastic. I had to pinch myself to see if I were dreaming." ❑

Jim O'Brien's third book on the Pittsburgh Steelers, Dare To Dream, *will be published this fall.*

Mel Renfro

MALCOLM W. EMMONS / NFL PHOTOS

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SCORING

All players will accumulate points based on the following:

OFFENSE

10 yds. rushing 1pt
10 yds. passing 1pt
10 yds. receiving .. 1pt
TD's 5pts
Converts 1pt
2 pt. Conversion .. 2pts
Field Goals 3pts

DEFENSE

Full Sack 10pts
1/2 Sack 5pts
Interception 10pts
Int./TD 10pts
Fumbles/TD 10pts

Group 01 Quarterbacks
- ❑ 1 Brett Favre, G.B. 664
- ❑ 2 Steve Young, S.F. 460
- ❑ 3 John Elway, Den. 551
- ❑ 4 Scott Mitchell, Det. 625
- ❑ 5 Jeff Blake, Cin. 565
- ❑ 6 Warren Moon, Min. 594

Group 02 Quarterbacks
- ❑ 1 Jeff George, Atl. 541
- ❑ 2 Erik Kramer, Chi. 536
- ❑ 3 Jim Everett, N.O. 533
- ❑ 4 Drew Bledsoe, N.E. 421
- ❑ 5 Dan Marino, Mia. 491
- ❑ 6 Steve Bono, K.C. 453

Group 03 Quarterbacks
- ❑ 1 Stan Humphries, S.D. 435
- ❑ 2 Dave Brown, NYG. 378
- ❑ 3 Jim Kelly, Buf. 428
- ❑ 4 Troy Aikman, Dal. 420
- ❑ 5 Neil O'Donnell, NYJ. 386
- ❑ 6 Vinny Testaverde, Bal. 389

Group 04 Quarterbacks
- ❑ 1 Jeff Houstetler, Rai 270
- ❑ 2 Jim Harbough, Ind. 373
- ❑ 3 Rick Mirer, Sea. 345
- ❑ 4 Gus Frerotte, Was. 346
- ❑ 5 Mark Brunell, Jac. 359
- ❑ 6 Kerry Collins, Car. 363

Group 05 Runnningbacks
- ❑ 1 Barry Sanders, Det. 250
- ❑ 2 Marshall Faulk, Ind. 224
- ❑ 3 Emmit Smith, Dal. 339
- ❑ 4 Chris Warren, Sea. 238
- ❑ 5 Curtis Martin, N.E. 249
- ❑ 6 Ricky Watters, Phi. 230

Group 06 Runningbacks
- ❑ 1 Edgar Bennett, G.B. 205
- ❑ 2 Terry Allen, Was. 208
- ❑ 3 Harvey Williams, Rai. 199
- ❑ 4 Rodney Hampton, NYG. 185
- ❑ 5 Errict Rhett, T.B. 186
- ❑ 6 Derek Loville, S.F. 203

Group 07 Runningbacks
- ❑ 1 Thurman Thomas, Buf. 162
- ❑ 2 Craig Heyward, Atl. 183
- ❑ 3 Bernie Parmalee, Mia. 171
- ❑ 4 Rashaan Salaam, Chi. 162
- ❑ 5 Terrell Davis, Den. 187
- ❑ 6 Natrone Means, Jac. 112

Group 08 Runningbacks
- ❑ 1 Kimble Anders, K.C. 88
- ❑ 2 Eric Pegram, Pit. 131
- ❑ 3 Earnest Byner, Bal. 112
- ❑ 4 Mario Bates, N.O. 141
- ❑ 5 Terry Kirby, Mia. 142
- ❑ 6 Rodney Thomas, Hou. 149

Group 09 Receivers
- ❑ 1 Herman Moore, Det. 238
- ❑ 2 Michael Irvin, Dal. 210
- ❑ 3 Isaac Bruce, Stl. 244
- ❑ 4 Jerry Rice, S.F. 283
- ❑ 5 Robert Brooks, G.B. 216
- ❑ 6 Carl Pickens, Cin. 208

Group 10 Receivers
- ❑ 1 Tim Brown, Rai. 184
- ❑ 2 Brett Perriman, Det. 199
- ❑ 3 Chris Carter, Min. 222
- ❑ 4 Andre Reed, Buf. 49
- ❑ 5 Curtis Conway, Chi. 170
- ❑ 6 Anthony Miller, Den 177

Group 11 Receivers
- ❑ 1 Joey Galloway, Sea. 163
- ❑ 2 Quinn Early, Buf. 148
- ❑ 3 Terance Mathis, Atl. 154
- ❑ 4 Yancey Thigpen, Pit. 155
- ❑ 5 Jeff Graham, NYJ. 150
- ❑ 6 Jake Reed, Min. 161

Group 12 Receivers
- ❑ 1 O.J.McDuffie, Mia. 121
- ❑ 2 Henry Ellard, Was. 130
- ❑ 3 Ben Coates, N.E. 121
- ❑ 4 Rob Moore, Arz. 126
- ❑ 5 Vincent Brisby, N.E. 112
- ❑ 6 Irving Fryar, Phi. 131

Group 13 Receivers
- ❑ 1 Mark Chmura, G.B. 102
- ❑ 2 Johnny Mitchell, NYJ. 74
- ❑ 3 Shannon Sharpe, Den. 95
- ❑ 4 Tony McGee, Cin. 95
- ❑ 5 Jackie Harris, T.B. 80
- ❑ 6 Brent Jones, S.F. 74

Group 14 Kickers
- ❑ 1 Jason Elam, Den. 132
- ❑ 2 Fuad Reveiz, Min. 122
- ❑ 3 Steve Christie, Buf. 126
- ❑ 4 Jason Hanson, Det. 132
- ❑ 5 Morton Andersen, N.O. 122
- ❑ 6 Chris Bonion, Dal. 127

Group 15 Sacks
- ❑ 1 Reggie White, G.B. 120
- ❑ 2 Wayne Martin, N.O. 140
- ❑ 3 William Fuller, Phi. 130
- ❑ 4 Clyde Simmons, Arz. 120
- ❑ 5 Leslie O'Neal, Stl. 125
- ❑ 6 Neil Smith, K.C. 120

Group 16 Sacks
- ❑ 1 Bruce Smith, Buf. 105
- ❑ 2 Kevin Greene, Pit. 100
- ❑ 3 Willie McGinest, N.E. 110
- ❑ 4 John Randle, Min. 105
- ❑ 5 Sean Jones, G.B. 100
- ❑ 6 Jim Flanigan, Chi. 110

Group 17 Sacks
- ❑ 1 Tony Bennett, Ind. 115
- ❑ 2 Pat Swilling, Rai. 130
- ❑ 3 Bryce Paup, Buf. 195
- ❑ 4 Brian Cox, Chi. 85
- ❑ 5 Derek Thomas, K.C. 80
- ❑ 6 Chris Doleman, S.F. 90

Group 18 Interceptions
- ❑ 1 Larry Brown, Rai. 80
- ❑ 2 Merton Hanks, S.F. 60
- ❑ 3 Aeneas Williams, Arz. 80
- ❑ 4 Otis Smith, NYJ. 70
- ❑ 5 Darrl Lewis, Hou. 80
- ❑ 6 Orlando Thomas, Min. 110

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Hidden Gems

by Larry Weisman USA TODAY

The scout runs the same piece of tape back and forth, back and forth. He's looking at the right tackle—or at least he was. A big kid. Good drive blocker. Fair feet. Not much with the hands. But who's that guy next to him?

As the scout scans the film, staring ever more intently, he finds himself enamored of this spunky guard. A little short to be a top pick, maybe not as quick as the best of them. But he's always finishing his blocks, always competing, and the scout makes a note that this young man bears watching in the later rounds.

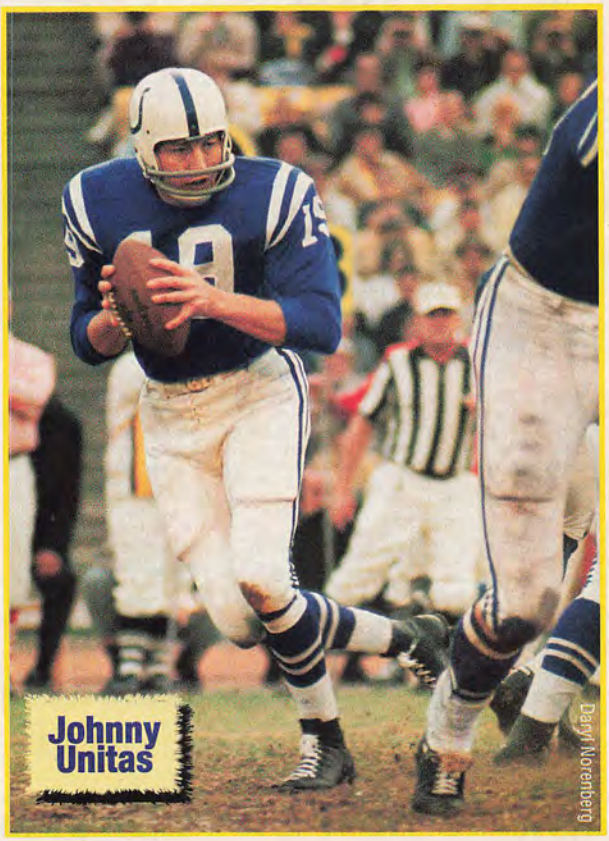
The tackle? He's a bust, a first-round pick who can't play at the NFL level. A failure almost from the opening day of camp through his journeys to a couple more clubs over eight forgettable seasons. Always gets another look because once he was a No. 1, but he never makes it big.

And that guard? Picked in the fifth round, he fought his way through camp and made the last cut. Played on special teams. Got in the lineup and then never came out after a very average regular twisted a knee. Pro Bowl? He'd have to pay to go. Good player? Sure. He's still a little short on size and quickness. But he's a solid pro, still finishing his blocks and making a very nice living.

What happened? How did the pedigreed stud collapse and die when the no-name beside him began to peak? Answer those questions, the equivalents of building a better mousetrap, and NFL personnel wizards will beat a path to your door.

"Development is the biggest thing and the toughest to call," claims Buffalo general manager John Butler, who selected running back Darick Holmes in the seventh round of last year's draft. Holmes rushed for 698 yards (4.1 average) and four touchdowns in providing a change of pace from perennial Pro Bowler Thurman Thomas and bearing out Butler's basic philosophy through the draft: "The same criteria go into each round. You take the best player. And if you do that, you shouldn't be too surprised at what they do," Butler says.

Unearthed in the later rounds of the NFL draft, if at all, these diamonds in the rough improve with polishing.


Johnny Unitas

Darryl Norenberg

Call them lunch-pail guys or overachievers, but don't for a minute ignore these unheralded players who explode into competence, if not stardom, with regularity.

Larry Brown

Who wasn't shocked when Larry Brown, among Dallas's glittering stars, stepped up and made the two key plays of the Super Bowl and earned Most Valuable Player honors? Go figure Brown, a 12th-round pick in 1991, eclipsing the likes of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, and Charles Haley.

As a junior college transfer to Texas Christian University, Brown showed a disdain for attending class that briefly led to his separation from the team. After an erratic senior year, he excelled in the Blue-Gray game and impressed scouts with his speed.

So the Cowboys took a chance. As did Brown. He skipped a week of training camp due to a family emergency, hardly a way to endear oneself to Jimmy Johnson. Then he got serious and chewed up fellow rookie (and second-round choice) Alvin Harper practice after practice. By the fourth game, Brown became a starter. "I think they liked that I was determined and a hard worker," Brown said.

The effort paid dividends in 1995. Brown had a big interception in the NFC championship against

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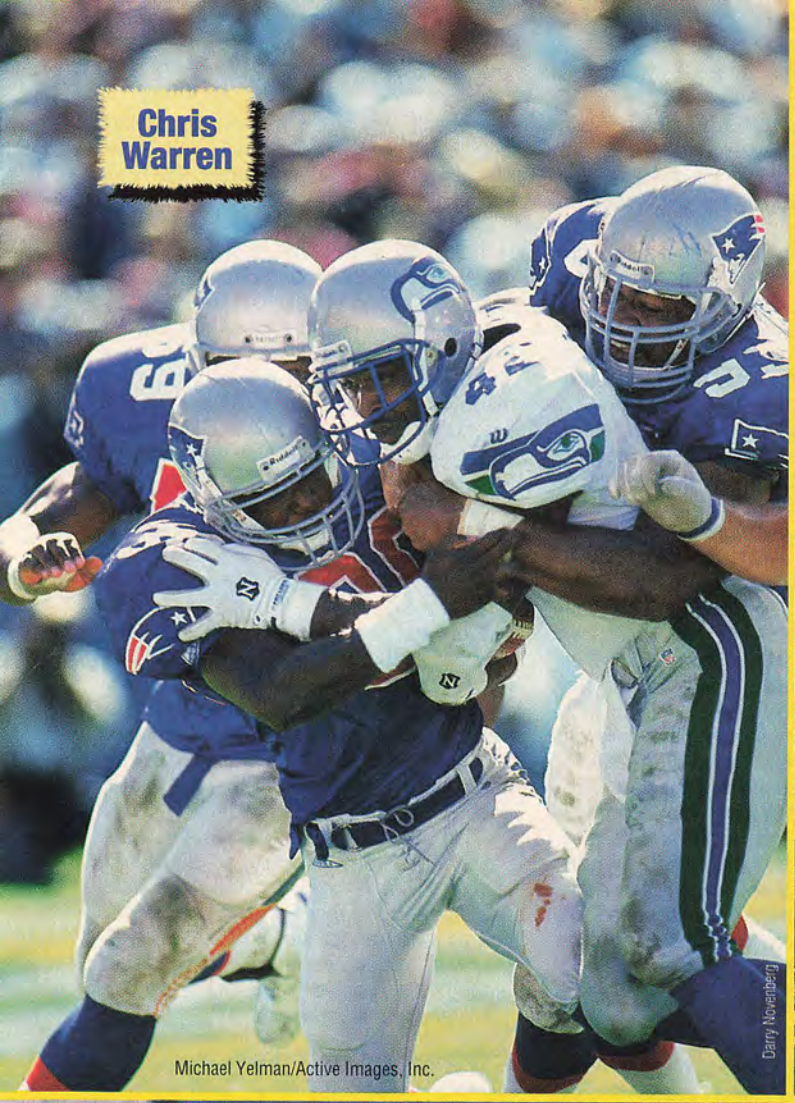

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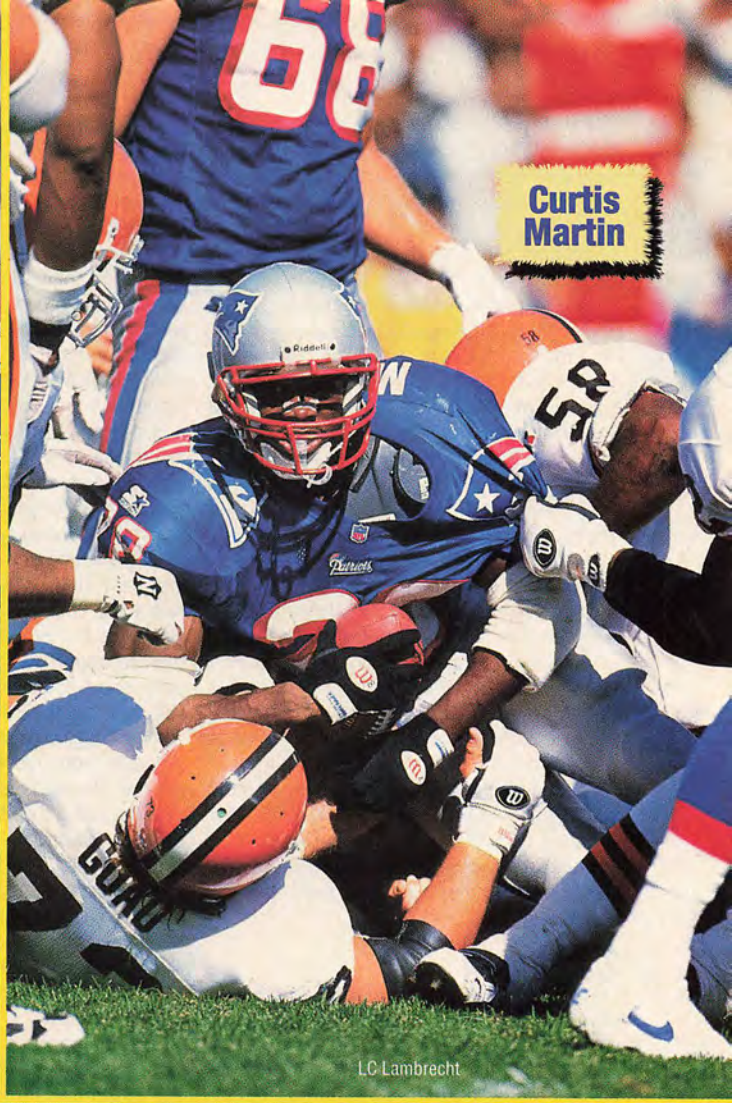
Darry Novenberg



LC Lambrecht

Al Bello/ALLSPORT

Green Bay and two that led to touchdowns against Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl. Never mind the reports that he was out of position on both. Dallas needed plays. The 12th-round pick made them.

So how come no one saw this in him five years ago?

"He's definitely an overachiever," said University of Minnesota coach Jim Wacker, who recruited Brown to TCU. "He has a good temperament and perspective. Some guys get hyped up too much, built up to be Superman when they're not. Then there are guys like Larry Brown. It's neat in coaching to see that the NFL needs those guys, those stabilizers who are not going to be prima donnas but team guys."

Hey, it could also be part of Dallas's karma. The Cowboys found defensive backs Cliff Harris, Everson Walls, and Bill Bates as free agents, though Bates likes to joke he was a "13th-round" selection in a 12-round draft. Job security never comes easy for those surprises. As Wacker noted, the Cowboys "were trying to find someone to replace Larry Brown since he got there."

Well, they're still looking. Brown, coming off his super Super Bowl, signed a five-year contract with Oakland that averages $2.5 million per year. Dallas, strapped by the salary cap, couldn't have signed him if it had wanted to.

J. B. Brown

Funny, but two years before Larry Brown debuted in the NFL, and at roughly the same point in the 12th round, Miami drafted a cornerback named J.B. Brown. Though the Maryland program J.B. Brown played in was fairly high-profile, one AFC East personnel director acknowledged never having even heard of Brown in the weeks before the draft. Yet a year later, J.B. Brown made his first start and hasn't been out of the lineup since. The higher-profile defensive backs—Louis Oliver, Jarvis Williams, Troy Vincent—came and went. J.B. Brown soldiers on, unknown.

Dwayne Harper

Same M.O. for San Diego's Dwayne Harper. Seattle chose him in the 11th round in 1988, the 299th player selected overall. He found his way into the starting lineup in his second season and eventually defected as a free agent to the Chargers, for whom he has seven interceptions the last two years.

No question every club craves this sort of player in the draft: a young guy on the front end of the learning curve and the short end of the pay scale.

Lee Woodall

Had the Philadelphia Eagles looked under their noses, they might have eyeballed that husky security guard at their training camp in West Chester, PA. They might have asked a question such as, "How come the lights are on late in the evening in the gym when no one's around?"

They would have found that this night watchman played safety and fullback at West Chester University. A little undersized, perhaps, for an NFL program, but those long nights pumping Eagles iron in the gym turned Lee Woodall, a small-college two-way player, into a strongside linebacker who won a Super Bowl ring as a rookie with San Francisco and went to the Pro Bowl in his second season. Not bad for a former hired hand, who never forgets the stifling blanket of obscurity at those sweltering training camps.

It's a strange circle of events and people that surround Woodall. The Eagles, who needed a linebacker, traded with San Francisco for Bill Romanowski. The 49ers then took Woodall in the sixth round in 1994. Their defensive coordinator at the time: Ray Rhodes, now the Eagles' coach.

Washington also should have followed Woodall more closely. A native of Carlisle, PA, the Redskins' summer home until 1995, Woodall got a pep talk from Washington cornerback Darrell Green when he quit West Chester after his freshman year. Woodall went back to school and earned a scholarship and Division II All-America honors. "It must have meant more to him than I thought it did," Green said of that casual conversation.

Jeff Blake

Jeff Blake sat on the New York Jets' bench without a hope of sniffing playing time. Backing up Boomer Esiason and Browning Nagle, he held a firm grasp on the No. 3 slot after the Jets picked him in the sixth round out of East Carolina. He played little and seemed an unknown quantity. So the Jets waived him in the last cut in 1994 and let him toddle off to Cincinnati, where (surprise, surprise) offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet, the Jets' former coach, welcomed him warmly. Before long, Blake was calling signals and David Klingler, a No. 1 pick (fifth overall), was holding the clipboard on the sidelines.

Blake led the AFC in touchdown passes in 1995 (28) and completions (326), threw the AFC's longest scoring pass (88 yards), and was second in passing yards (3,822). When he broke into the lineup in 1994, the Bengals were 0-7 and had just lost Klingler and backup Donald Hollas to injuries. Blake made his first start against Dallas, threw touchdowns passes of 67 and 55 yards, and gave his stumbling club a quick 14-0 lead against the Cowboys. They lost, 23-20, but Blake established himself in one outing and the Bengals broke their losing streak the following week.

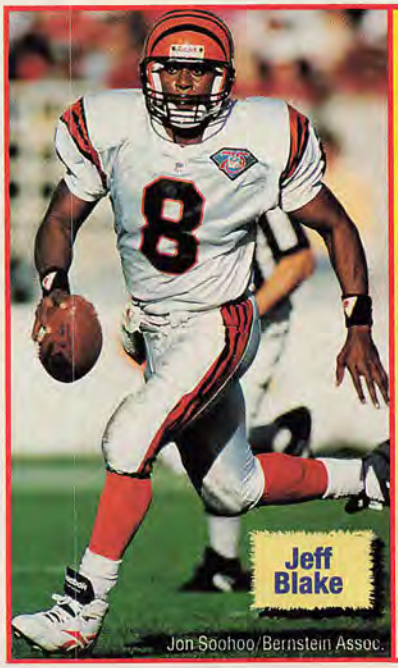
Wayne Chrebet

But let's not be too hard on the Jets. They saw something in a scrappy little receiver playing at Hofstra University, on whose Hempstead, NY, campus they practice. And it couldn't have been too difficult to get a recommendation on Wayne Chrebet because the Hofstra coach, Joe Gardi, once was a Jets' assistant.

Chrebet caught 57 passes for 1,200 yards and 16 touchdowns (a school record) in the Flying Dutchmen's run-and-shoot offense, and the receiver-poor Jets signed him as a free agent. Result: The 5-10, 180-pound Chrebet caught 66 passes—tops among NFL rookies last season—for 726 yards and four touchdowns.

Curtis Martin

Topping the AFC rushers last year was New England's Curtis Martin, a third-round pick of questionable durability during his short stay at the University of Pittsburgh. But Martin, the 10th running back taken and the 74th pick last spring, bought into Patriots coach Bill Parcells's workhorse theories and rumbled for 1,487 yards a year ago.



Jon Soohoo/Bernstein Assoc.

1996 HIDDEN GEM TEAM

Pos.	Name . . . Draft Round
	Offense
QB	Jeff Blake 6
RB	Chris Warren 4
RB	Curtis Martin 3
WR	Yancey Thigpen . . . . FA
WR	Wayne Chrebet . . . . . FA
TE	Ben Coates 5
OL	Curtis Whitley 5
OL	Doug Riesenberg 6
OL	Jesse Sapolu 11
OL	Nate Newton . . . . . FA
OL	Mark Tuinei . . . . . FA
KR	Brian Mitchell 5
PK	Chris Boniol . . . . . FA
	Defense
DL	Dan Saleaumua 7
DL	John Randle . . . . . FA
DL	Kevin Greene 5
DL	Chad Hennings 11
LB	Greg Lloyd 6
LB	Lee Woodall 6
LB	Bryce Paup 6
CB	Larry Brown 12
CB	Dwayne Harper 11
FS	Merton Hanks 5
SS	Blaine Bishop 8
P	Darren Bennett . . . . . FA

Terrell Davis

Terrell Davis, a sixth-round choice, knocked off a bunch of journeymen, emerged as Denver's go-to guy, and rushed for 1,117 yards. The Broncos' offense prospered in part because of second-year center Tom Nalen (seventh round) and tight end Shannon Sharpe (seventh round).

Chris Warren

Of course, the AFC's big dog at running back remains Seattle's Chris Warren, himself a fourth-round pick from that football factory called Ferrum College in southern Virginia. The conference's leading rusher in '94 (1,545 yards), Warren was the runner-up (1,346 yards) to Martin last fall and finished second in scoring among non-kickers to Carl Pickens with 16 touchdowns.

Continued

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Bryce Paup

Unearthed in middle to late rounds, if at all, these diamonds in the rough improve with polishing. Green Bay spent a meager sixth-round pick in 1990 on linebacker Bryce Paup, who, in his first season with Buffalo as a big-dollar free agent, led the NFL with 17 1/2 sacks. He was good playing behind the Packers' Reggie White, even better lined up outside the Bills' Phil Hansen (and opposite Bruce Smith).

Brian Mitchell

Washington's Brian Mitchell holds 12 club records, setting seven of them last season. He has played running back and quarterback in addition to the punt- and kick-return duties for which he's best known, and he led the NFL the last two seasons in all-purpose yards.

That's a lot of value for a fifth-round pick in 1990. Six career punt returns for touchdowns tie him for second on the NFL's all-time list. He was second on the Redskins last year in rushing and receiving and led the NFC in kickoff returns (25.6-yard average). He scored by rushing, receiving, and on a punt return.

"People can say I'm a return specialist, but I line up in the backfield, I run the ball, and I catch the ball out of the backfield," Mitchell said. "I guarantee one thing: When I do line up back there, the defense isn't saying, 'O.K., we've got a return specialist back there.' "

Just ask the Broncos. Mitchell put up 290 combined yards against them last season, including a 36-yard touchdown run, a 59-yard punt return, and a 52-yard kickoff return. "He can do so much," said Redskins coach Norv Turner. "Our biggest concern is not to overwork him."

Imagine that. Turner worries about the welfare of a fifth-round pick. Turnabout is certainly fair play. Later choices, such as Mitchell, rarely get the opportunity to make the mistakes a team forgives in a No. 1. They must overachieve from the first day of practice through the last game they play, not exactly stigmatized by their draft status but never considered thoroughbreds. Heart and an an unquenchable desire often separate them from the bluebloods given a pass to the top.

Nate Newton

Dallas guard Nate Newton started his career in the USFL with the Tampa Bay Bandits and then scrapped to keep his job with the Cowboys in Jimmy Johnson's early days of constant roster churning. He lets that motivate him still. "I came in once and there were seven guys in my locker. It was a revolving door. It was intimidation in a big way," Newton said.

The lesson? "You never want to lose. That's one of the few things I learned when I got to this level," he explained. "My only goal is to win. I made friends along the way and I made enemies along the way. I don't care if Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin don't like me. If they go out there on Sundays and we win, then I love them."

For the nobody-turned-somebody, it's lonely at the top. And lonelier at the bottom.❐

Dave Black

ALL-TIME SLEEPER TEAM

With the NFL draft now a relatively tidy affair at seven rounds, fans today forget that the college selection meeting once went 27 rounds and cast its net in all sorts of directions. Things were less complicated in those days. As New York Giants co-owner Wellington Mara remembers it, the *Street & Smith's College Football* preview issue ultimately served as the draft guide. Combine workouts, individual timing and testing, psychological workups—that all came later as the NFL advanced to a more businesslike stage. "Those were very different times," Mara said. "The draft was not exactly science."

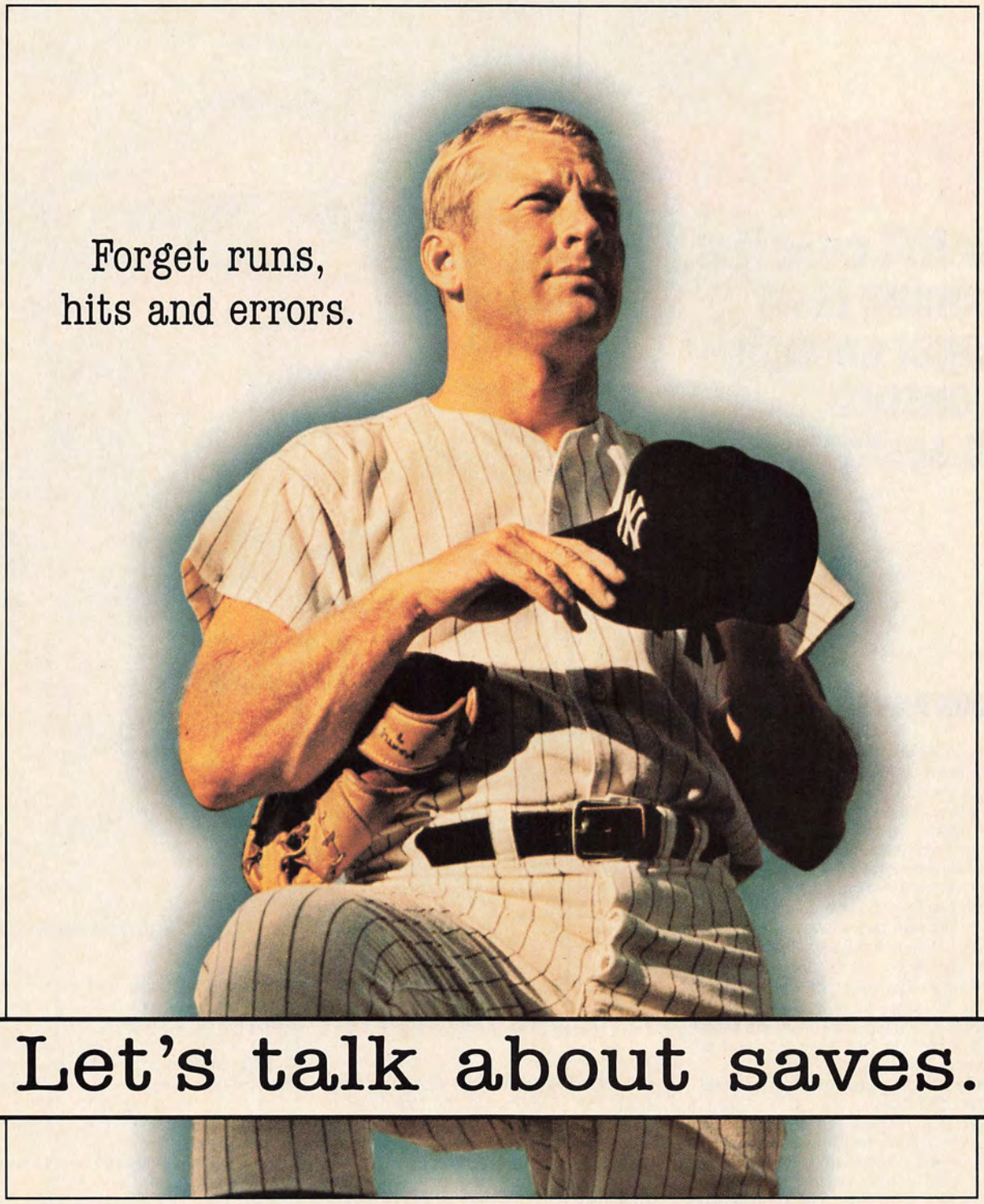
As might be expected, most of those very late picks never distinguished themselves. Hey, you don't go in the 27th round and become a star, do you? Well, Roosevelt Brown enjoyed just that distinction. The Giants selected him 27th in 1953. The big tackle from Morgan State played 13 seasons and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1975. No player drafted lower elevated himself more, as Brown is the latest-round pick to be enshrined.

The Hall of Fame also counts among its members six players who were signed as free agents, among them Oakland cornerback Willie Brown and Miami center Jim Langer. Great ones, it seems, can come from anywhere. So here are our offensive and defensive lineups of all-time standouts from the deepest of backgrounds. No No. 1 or No. 2 picks allowed. Players picked the lowest get the highest priority for this all-star collection.

Many of these players were cut by their drafting team and went on to achieve as free agents with other clubs. Johnny Unitas, for instance, was Pittsburgh's No. 9 pick in 1955, got cut, and played brilliantly for the Baltimore Colts.

All-Time Hidden Gems

Pos.	Name	Draft Round
	Offense	
QB	Johnny Unitas	9
QB	Bart Starr	17
RB	LeRoy Kelly	8
RB	Bobby Mitchell	7
WR	Raymond Berry	20
WR	Don Maynard	9
TE	Jackie Smith	10
OT	Roosevelt Brown	27
OT	Lou Creekmur	24
OC	Jim Langer	FA
OG	Dan Fortmann	9
OG	Larry Little	FA
PK	George Blanda	12
	Defense	
DE	Andy Robustelli	9
DE	Willie Davis	17
DT	Henry Jordan	5
DT	Art Donovan	4
LB	Joe Schmidt	7
LB	Ray Nitschke	3
LB	Sam Huff	3
CB	Dick Lane	FA
CB	Willie Brown	FA
S	Ken Houston	9
S	Emlen Tunnell	FA



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Firing Line

For NFL coaches, winning is no longer enough to ensure job security

ILLUSTRATED BY ANDREW BARTHELMES

by DON PIERSON CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Don Shula called it the "toughest" season of his 33-year NFL coaching career. Booed by fans and chastised by the media, the winningest coach in pro football history was pressured to resign graciously from the Miami Dolphins after a 9-7 record last year, another ho-hum winning playoff-bound season. He became the first coach run out of town on his own expressway. A section of highway in Miami is named after him.

Winning used to be the only thing, according to the legend of Vince Lombardi. Now, it's only one of many things, and obviously not enough to ensure job security in a profession that never did have any guarantees.

Barry Switzer was ridiculed and second-guessed before, during, and after a winning Super Bowl season. His Dallas Cowboys couldn't beat the San Francisco 49ers or the Washington Redskins. He should have punted against the Philadelphia Eagles. He couldn't get along with his quarterback.

"The good news is we won the Super Bowl; the bad news is I'm coming back," Switzer said, defiantly.

Ted Marchibroda got his surprising Indianapolis Colts into the AFC championship game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, missing a Super Bowl trip by the tip of a football falling to the end zone ground. His reward for exceeding anything Indianapolis had ever seen in pro football? An offer of a one-year contract at no raise. Thanks but no thanks, Marchibroda said, and replaced Bill Belichick as coach of the new Baltimore team.

Jim Mora is now the NFL's reigning head coach. His 10 years with the New Orleans Saints makes him No. 1 in tenure with one club. His recognition for surviving so long? He gets one more year, win or else.

"It's almost impossible to stay with the same team 10 or 11 years anymore," Mora said. "There is definitely more pressure. It's so much different from 10 years ago it's not even close."

What's different is the size of the magnifying glass. Exposure and scrutiny have increased so much that the intensity of the glare can microwave a coach in a shorter span than ever before. The seat was always hot; now you can't even sit on it.

Wayne Fontes had to make the playoffs last year or else. So Detroit won its last seven games. After the Lions lost their playoff opener, the hounds were at his heels again. Now he must advance farther into the playoffs to stay employed.

The subject of job pressure came up more than once when NFL coaches met during the owners' annual meeting in Palm Beach last March. Dave Wannstedt of the Chicago Bears, a coach who has enjoyed a three-year honeymoon, got a glimpse of the future in the last game of his 1995 season when the Bears beat the Eagles to stay alive for the playoffs. The Bears had been playing all season with the specter of moving to a new stadium in Gary, Indiana literally hanging over their heads. Circling Soldier Field were airplanes trailing nasty suggestions for club president Michael McCaskey.

"What are those fans thinking the first time we drop a pass?" Wannstedt said.

"Fire the coach in Detroit," answered Fontes, overhearing Wannstedt's lament.

To Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer, the pressure is no different than it ever was. "I don't feel any more pressure to win now than I did throughout my career, probably because the pressure to win I have is not driven by outsiders or external forces," Schottenheimer said.

A first-round playoff loser after a league-best 13-3 regular season, Schottenheimer

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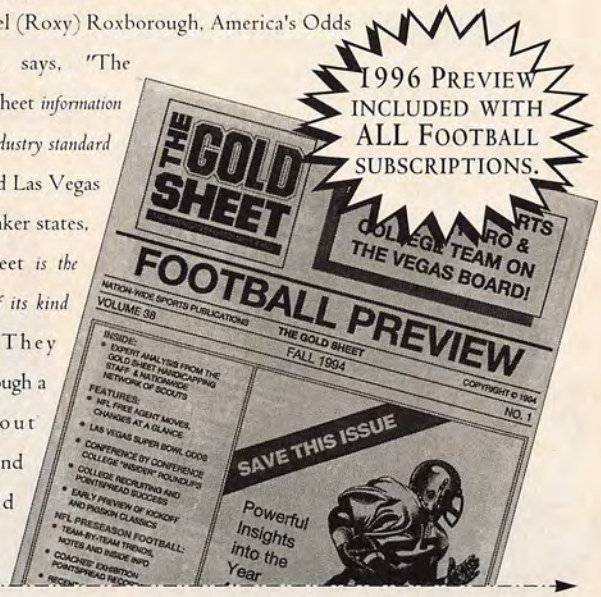

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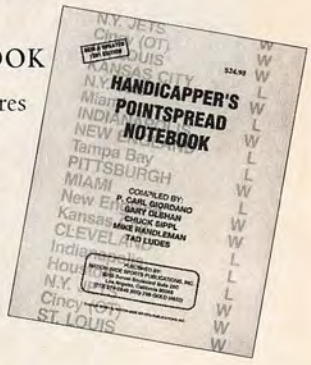


Firing Line

admits he doesn't listen to talk radio and couldn't say how many sports talk shows air in Kansas City.

"Maybe I isolate myself from the rest of what goes on," said Schottenheimer, who is aware of pressure elsewhere. "The thing that amazed me was all the suggestions a year ago that had George Seifert not gone to the Super Bowl with the 49ers, he'd be out of work. That's hard to imagine," Schottenheimer said.

Pressure Points

The boom in sports-talk radio is one of several manifestations of increased pressure.

- New owners who have spent their last millions on their teams and demand instant and constant accountability.
- Free agency, which encourages a get-well-quick expectation that isn't necessarily realistic.
- Salaries so high that the empathy gap between player and fan is wider than ever.
- More suspicion than loyalty driving the passions of fans, who see spiraling costs and franchise free agency and are more inclined toward resentment than patience.
- Rules that promote close games, making it appear that everybody has a chance. Therefore, winning looks easier, rather than harder, than ever.
- Greater media scrutiny. With the increase in cable TV, there are often more minicams than notebooks recording and replaying every move football teams make .

In every case, the head coach remains the most obvious, most convenient, and most vulnerable target of criticism. Their accountability has stretched beyond preparation and strategy to player behavior and salary caps and owner maneuvering. When a player pouts or an owner threatens to move out of an old stadium, the coach is the man at the microphone every day, fielding questions he often cannot answer.

A closer look at the burdens:

Talk Radio

"I've had people in the league say, 'Don't listen to them,' but that's not a problem because I never do," Schottenheimer said. "When I'm going to work, I either have a CD playing or a phone conversation going."

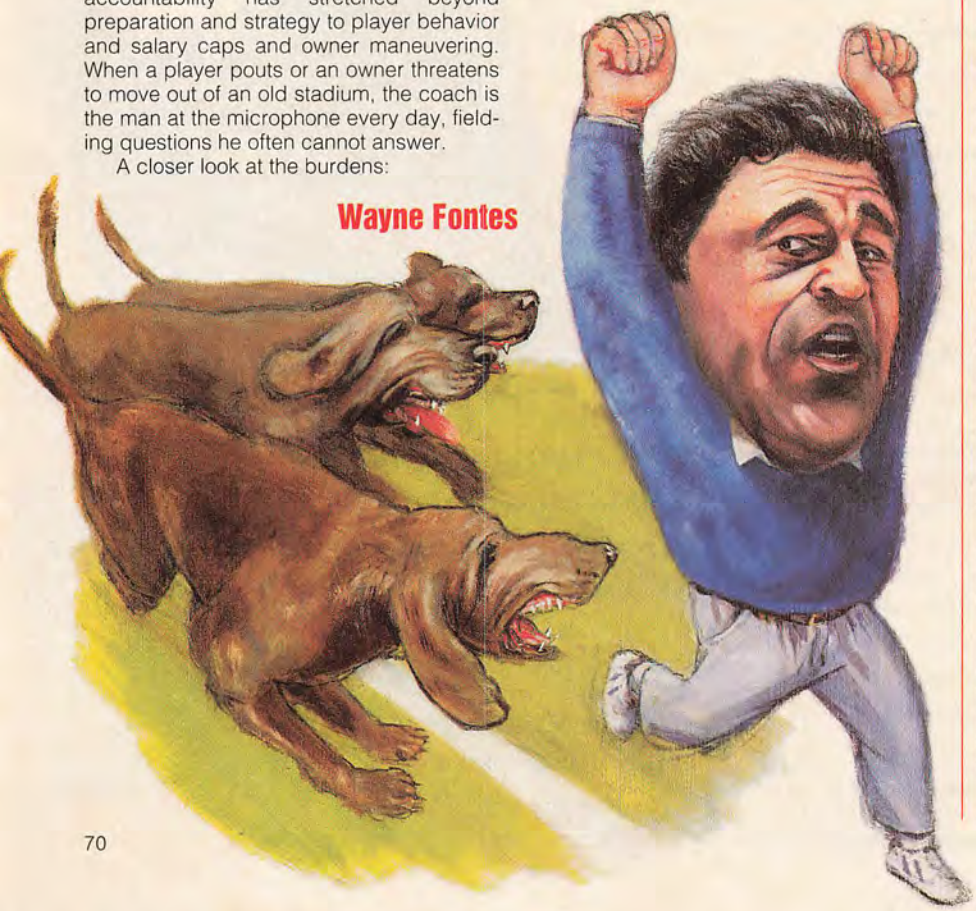
In Miami, a radio station is being sued for mimicking the "Bryan Cox Show," imitating linebacker Cox's voice making outrageous and personal statements that drove Cox's children home crying from school. The most surprising thing is the radio station is the Dolphins' flagship station.

"In New Orleans, we have a brutal guy who has made his reputation on bashing the Saints," Mora said. "He has a small group of callers, and the Saints can't do anything right."

Talk radio is riding a wave of popularity. Anybody with a car phone is recognized as an expert. What boosts the credibility of the stations is the willingness of so many athletes and coaches to contribute. They help make their own bed.

Owners

Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeff Lurie borrowed every penny of the $185 million he used to buy the Eagles. He needs results in order to keep selling tickets. To get results, he needs players. To get players, he needs cash to pay the going rate on signing bonuses. He has very little cash compared with Jerry Jones of the Cowboys, who supplemented the income he derives from owning Texas Stadium with marketing deals with Nike and Pepsi that got him sued for $300 million by fellow owners.



Wayne Fontes

This vicious cycle turns coaches around in circles. A coach can make no mistake in personnel, no mistake in strategy. The problem is not limited to new owners who paid dearly for their franchises. Art Modell couldn't make money in the hotbed of Cleveland football because of poor business decisions and an unfavorable stadium situation. One reason he borrowed money to pay free agent Andre Rison's signing bonus was to stem the defection of luxury suite owners.

"I ran out of the capacity to borrow and to be competitive," Modell said. "I can make a good buck for a year by being 2-14. But the next year, my season ticket base of 38,000 would go to 18,000. Then what?"

Then Bill Belichick gets blamed. After he was released as head coach, team officials said one reason was his inability to rally the troops after Modell's decision to move to Baltimore leaked out.

"It's such big business," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "We've got pressure on coaches to make it happen, to fill the stadium. I think those things have intensified over the last 10 years."

Free Agency

The Dolphins spent millions to assemble a team with 19 former No. 1 draft choices last year. They put all their egos in one basket for Shula to make one last run at glory. The 9-7 result simply wasn't good enough.

Buddy Ryan wrote checks with his mouth that his free agents couldn't cash in Arizona. Ex-Eagles Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons and quarterback David Krieg couldn't produce the "winner in town" that Ryan promised. So he was kicked out of town.

Entering the fourth season of free agency, the only free agent who has proved worth the money is Deion Sanders, who won a Super Bowl title when he jumped to the 49ers and another one when he jumped to the Cowboys. If you argue that Sanders was only another star along for joy rides on two great teams—not an impossible argument—then you certainly can't name another free agent who has delivered his team to the promised land.

"It's still a team sport," said Indianapolis Colts director of operations Bill Tobin.

The salary cap prevents teams from either keeping all the players they want or from loading up on other stars. It is another built-in protection to maintain competitive balance. But fans see it as a panacea, a way for weak teams to correct all ills with a few signatures on big paychecks. If that's true, the Cowboys will fall to 3-13 this year and New York Jets will win the Super Bowl.

"Free agency is just another thing for the media to write about and criticize and focus on a team not doing the job. It just makes it harder," Mora said.

Salaries

Ron Stone started two games for the Cowboys in three years. He played guard and tackle mostly on the kicking teams. Yet the New York Giants paid him $10 million over five years to jump to their team this season.

Troy Auzenne played fewer than 60 snaps for the Bears last year, yet the Colts

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Yds Receiving	1 pt per 10 yds	Field Goal	3 pts	Interception	3 pts	3. Receivers pts
rounded to nearest 1/10		Extra Point	1 pt	Fumble Recovery	3 pts	4. Kickers pts
		Extra Point	2 pts			5 Defensive Team pts

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ID	Group1 QB	Team	Points
1	B. Frave	GB	440.9
2	D. Marino	Mia	296.1
3	S. Mitchell	Det	375.8
4	W. Moon	Min	375.3
5	S. Young	SF	290.9

ID	Group 2 QB	Team	Points
6	J. Blake	Cin	328.8
7	J. Elway	Den	342.9
8	J. Everett	NO	320.9
9	J. George	Atl	317.5
10	E. Kramer	Chi	342.5

ID	Group 3 QB	Team	Points
11	T. Aikman	Dal	239.8
12	D. Bledsoe	NE	225.0
13	S. Bono	KC	280.5
14	S. Humphries	SD	250.5
15	J. Kelly	Buf	260.9

ID	Group 4 Rec	Team	Points
16	I. Bruce	StL	383.1
17	C. Carter	Min	361.1
18	M. Irvin	Dal	331.3
19	H. Moore	Det	375.6
20	J. Rice	SF	422.0

ID	Group 5 Rec	Team	Points
21	R. Brooks	GB	337.8
22	T. Brown	Oak	283.2
23	E. Metcalf	Atl	302.2
24	B. Perriman	Det	327.6
25	C. Pickens	Cin	325.1

ID	Group 6 Rec	Team	Points
26	J. Graham	Chi	248.1
27	T. Martin	SD	254.4
28	A. Miller	Den	251.4
29	J. Reed	Min	242.7
30	Y. Thigpen	Pit	251.8

ID	Group 7 Rec	Team	Points
31	B. Coates	NE	211.5
32	C. Conway	Chi	240.2
33	Q. Early	NO	237.3
34	J. Galloway	Sea	230.9
35	T. Mathis	Atl	241.9

ID	Group 8 Rec	Team	Points
36	H. Jeffries	Hou	177.4
37	O. McDuffie	Mia	187.1
38	R. Moore	Ariz	185.0
39	A. Rison	Bal	135.6
40	S. Sharpe	Den	162.6

ID	Group 9 RB	Team	Points
41	D. Loville	SF	303.5
42	C. Martin	NE	301.9
43	B. Sanders	Det	310.2
44	E. Smith	Dal	425.9
45	R. Watters	Phi	304.7

ID	Group 10 RB	Team	Points
46	E. Bennett	GB	274.5
47	L. Centers	Ariz	252.6
48	M. Faulk	Ind	295.3
49	C. Warren	Sea	290.3
50	H. Williams	Oak	264.2

ID	Group 11 RB	Team	Points
51	T. Allen	Wash	251.1
52	T. Davis	Den	237.8
53	C. Heyward	Atl	228.3
54	B. Parmelee	Mia	222.6
55	T. Thomas	Buf	196.5

ID	Group 12 BR	Team	Points
56	M. Allen	KC	167.0
57	R. Hampton	NYG	217.8
58	B. Morris	Pit	121.5
59	E. Rhett	TB	212.7
60	R. Salaam	Chi	180.0

ID	Group 13 K	Team	Points
61	C. Boniol	Dal	127.0
62	S. Christie	Buf	126.0
63	J. Elam	Den	132.0
64	J. Hanson	Det	132.0
65	N. Johsnon	Pit	141.0

ID	Group 14 K	Team	Points
66	M. Andersen	Atl	122.0
67	D. Pelfrey	Cin	121.0
68	F. Reveiz	Min	122.0
69	M. Stover	Bal	113.0
70	P. Stoyanovich	Mia	118.0

ID	Group 15 Defense
71	Bal
72	Buf
73	Cin
74	Den
75	Hou
76	Ind
77	Jac
78	KC
79	Oak
80	Mia
81	NE
82	NYJ
83	Pit
84	SD
85	Sea

ID	Group 16 Defense
86	Atl
87	AZ
88	Car
89	Chi
90	Dal
91	Det
92	GB
93	StL
94	Min
95	NO
96	NYG
97	Phi
98	SF
99	TB
100	Wash

SS

PLAYER POINTS ARE FROM 1995 REGULAR SEASON. *SPORTS FANATICS PLAYER DRAFTS IS A REGISTERED TRADE NAME. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. NOT AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE. ENTRANTS MUST BE 18 YEAR OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE.*

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Firing Line

paid him a $1 million bonus to play left tackle for them.

Cowboy linebackers Dixon Edwards and Robert Jones got contracts of $10 million to jump to the Minnesota Vikings and St. Louis Rams, respectively, Edwards for four years, Jones for five. Just think if they played on third down! The Vikings claim Edwards will, but he didn't in Dallas.

The average salary of an NFL player was reported at $714,000 by the NFL Players Association last year. It will get even closer to $1 million this year. Fans, therefore, expect million-dollar performance.

When they don't get it, they are as apt to blame the coach as the player.

"Herman Moore made a great catch in a game and the fans were yelling, 'Way to go, Herman!' " Fontes said. "Thirty seconds later, he comes across and drops a routine ball. I hear, 'Fire the coach!'

"My wife and I went to an ice skating competition. A girl jumps up and does a triple axel. The people applaud. It was beautiful. Then she tries another triple and falls. She gets up and the crowd goes, 'Oooooohhh.' But no one booed. I said to my wife, 'I wonder if her coach will get fired.' "

The Loyalty Factor

"Everybody's looking for a better deal," Wannstedt said. Owners look for better cities. Coaches look for better players. Players look for more money. Fans pay.

"From the fans' perspective, it makes them think, 'Are these guys really loyal to me? Am I going to be loyal to them in bad times?' It's a little bit shaky right now," Wannstedt said.

In Miami, Shula left Joe Robbie Stadium to chants of "Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy," as in Johnson. The winningest coach in history heard them, but reacted with typical class. "The responsibility always stops with the head coach," Shula said. "I'm aware of the criticism that's out there. But I can't let it take away from my focus and my responsibility to get this team ready to play."

On the Johnson clamor specifically, Shula said: "That's something I can't control. I've also got a lot of loyal fans that have been with me through the years. They've stuck with me and I appreciate that. The other ones are entitled to their opinion. They can say and think what they feel. That can't have an influence on me and my responsibilities. I can't let that influence it."

Rules

Obsessed with competitive balance, NFL rules committees tinker with every tool at their disposal to prevent lopsided games. From the draft to the salary cap to the waiver wire to compensatory draft picks to pass-blocking rules to illegal chucking to hands-off quarterbacks, the system is fine-tuned to promote the results it enjoys: a record number of overtime games (21) last year. A total of 51 games (21.3 percent) were decided after the two-minute warning.

The result is every team appears so evenly matched that the perception is a good coach can make the difference. But no matter how hard the league tries, it cannot legislate intelligence or outlaw stupidity. The truth is, only eight teams have won 26 of the 30 Super Bowls: the Cowboys, 49ers, Steelers, Raiders, Redskins, Dolphins, Giants, and Packers.

Media Scrutiny

The weekly rhythm of pro football sets it apart from other sports. A limited number of games make each game more important and therefore more interesting. In basketball or baseball, a loss is another day at the office. In football, it's a crisis in the office. The NFL becomes a victim of its own popularity. With a week to build up to games and a week to dissect them, a coach is on the spot far longer than 60 minutes.

"It's one of the very few sports where everybody thinks they know more than the coach," Fontes said.

Especially ex-coaches. When Switzer sent Emmitt Smith on fourth and a foot twice on failed plunges against the Eagles, he was immediately second-guessed by network experts Joe Gibbs, Jimmy Johnson, and Mike Ditka, who called it "dumb and dumber." Lost in the debate was Switzer's decision to second-guess himself. By going for it twice, he obviously knew exactly what he was doing. Wrong or not, it reflected a leadership and confidence receiver Michael Irvin said the team needed at that point to propel them onward.

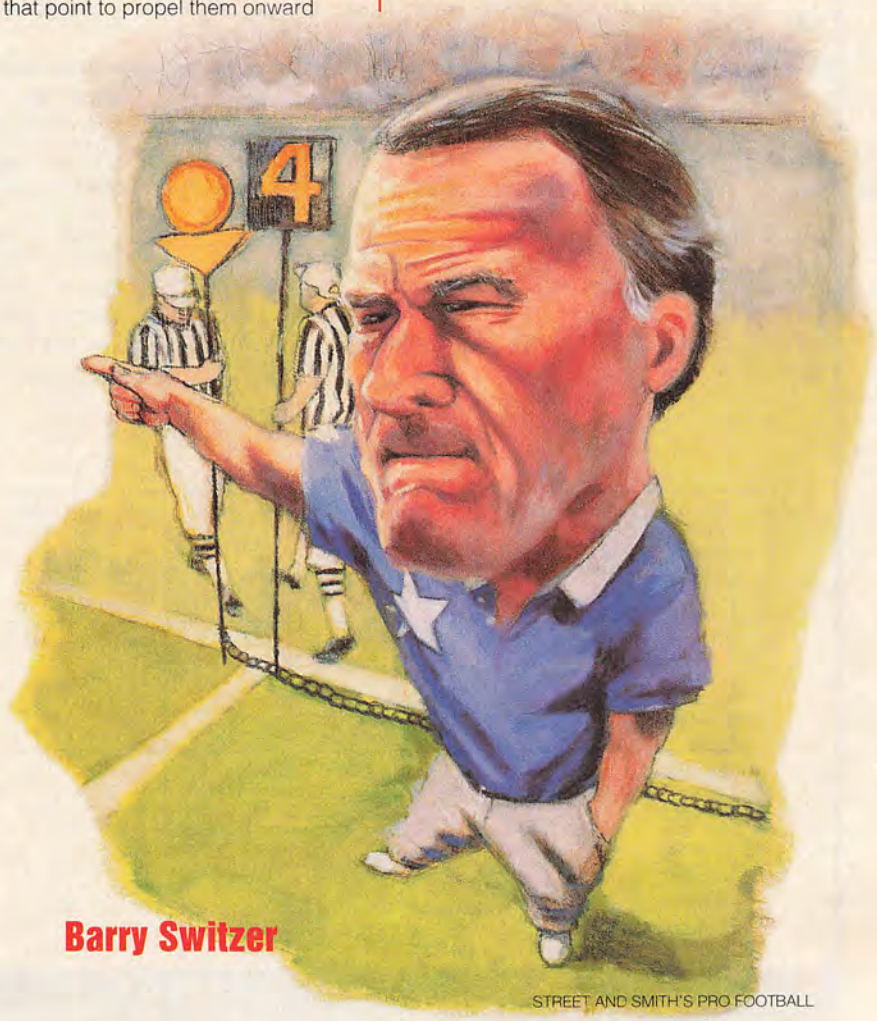
"I've been in this business 35 years and I know what I can do," Switzer said. "What do I care what other people think?"

But when it's quarterback Troy Aikman thinking his coach didn't back him up against insinuations of racism by former assistant coach John Blake, then the coach must care. Aikman's agent, Leigh Steinberg, called Switzer's handling of a potentially explosive situation "outrageous" and "irresponsible." If Switzer remains on the spot in 1996, it's partially of his own doing.

Pressure on coaches is nothing new and never will disappear. It's part of the deal and every coach knows.

"In San Francisco one year [1990], we were 15-2 and we didn't have a whole lot of fun coaching because if you didn't win the Super Bowl, nothing else mattered," Holmgren said. "None of us got into coaching orginally for that. We got in to teach guys, to see a progression during the week where you get a team ready to play, to see young people get better. As long as I'm doing what I'm doing, I'm going to attempt to have fun doing it."

"I still like it," Mora said. "The pressure I put on myself hasn't changed a bit. You've got to not let those outside distractions worry you. It's still challenging and fun. We are all competitive guys. This is a big year for me, and I welcome the challenge. I'm looking forward to it. You just keep fighting and do the best you can and try to win. ❑



Barry Switzer

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"Free agency hurts the team losing the player more than it helps the team signing him."

FREE AGENT SCORECARD

by Larry Felser BUFFALO NEWS

Last January, as the Miami Dolphins were gurgling down the playoff drain, Tom Heckert, then the team's vice president of player personnel, observed that "Maybe we should pay more attention to team chemistry." That would have been a more helpful observation for Don Shula if it had been spoken two years earlier. In fact, after three years of misfiring on free agency, it may become the mantra of most teams. The NFL landscape is littered with casualties of the open market. Consider some of them:

Bad Moon Rison

Art Modell decided he couldn't live without a gilt-edged wide receiver for Vinny Testaverde last year, so he spent $17 million, most of which the Browns did not have on hand, for Andre Rison, Atlanta's troubled pass catcher. Wherever Rison had played (Indianapolis and Atlanta), he always seemed to finish each season with impressive numbers. His name was always mentioned with the league's elite wide receivers.

There was another constant in Rison's résumé: His teams almost never qualified for the playoffs. The one time the Falcons did, they exited immediately. Cleveland was supposed to be different. Rison was coming to a team that had finished 11-5 the season before. The Browns knocked off New England in the playoffs before being eliminated themselves. Even after they lost to Pittsburgh, they were spoken of as "next year's AFC champions." What followed was the free-agent signing from hell.

Cleveland made room for Rison by trading Eric Metcalf, who had long-distance scoring plays of 92, 73, 57, and 37 yards in 1994, to Atlanta, along with their own first-round draft choice, for the Falcons' first-round pick, the 10th in the first round. When it came time to redeem the selection, the Browns panicked when their target, Penn State tight end Kyle Brady, was chosen by the Jets one position before they were to draft. Cleveland ended up dealing the Atlanta slot to San Francisco for the 49ers' first-round selection, which was 20 picks later in the round. The Browns ended up picking linebacker Craig Powell, whose contributions were insignificant.

Once the season began, the Browns staggered out of the gate, a development made all the more embarrassing because Rison was just another player in their offense. The Browns couldn't find a way to get the ball to him. Coach Bill Belichick made a psychological error by benching Testaverde in favor of rookie Eric Zeier. The move eroded team confidence and eventually was one of the factors which cost Belichick his job.

The Browns were already in a losing pit when Modell announced he would move the franchise to Baltimore in 1996. When things went bad, Rison's lack or production and whining because he wasn't getting the ball enough exacerbated the problem. Meanwhile, in Atlanta, Metcalf contributed heavily to the Falcons' successful march to the playoffs. No one missed Rison.

Often it happens the other way. Detroit paid a fortune for defensive tackle Henry Thomas of Minnesota a year ago, but he

wasn't much help when the Philadelphia Eagles ran the Lions out of the playoffs, 58-37. Without Thomas, the Vikings didn't even make the playoffs. Bill Parcells was hailed for a brilliant move when he signed his old handyman, Dave Meggett, for New England. With Meggett in the lineup the Patriots dropped right out of the playoff race early. Without Meggett the Giants slid from 9-7 to 5-11.

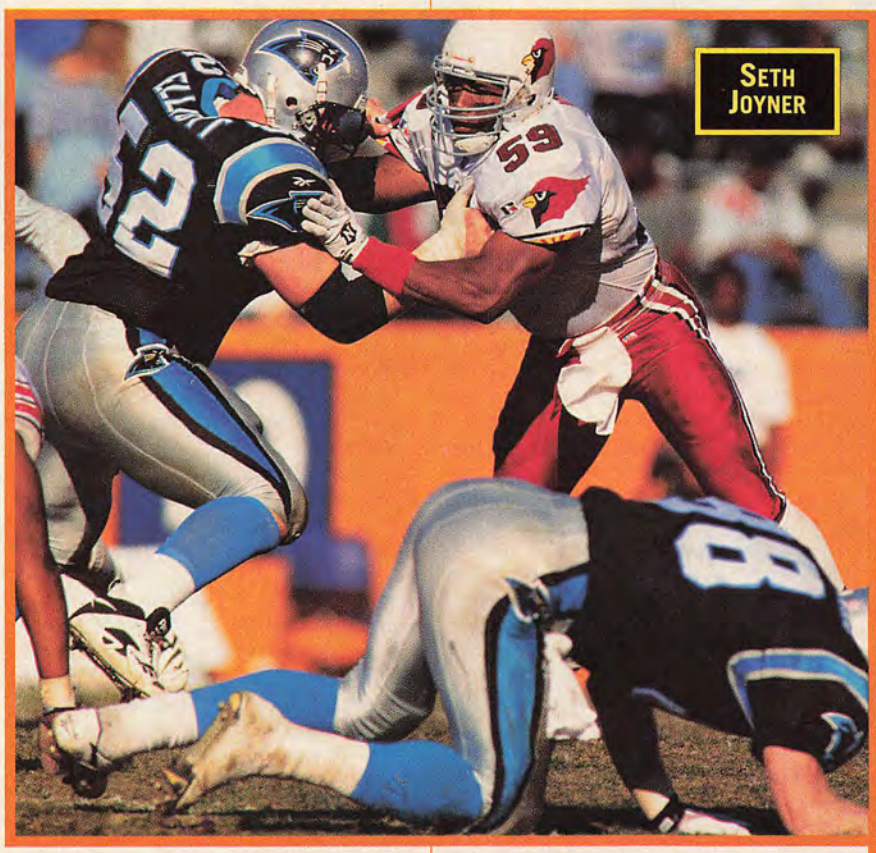
The Buddy System

Buddy Ryan thought he was importing the old Philadelphia Eagles' truculence to his Arizona defense when he signed linebacker Seth Joyner and end Clyde Simmons. It turned out the Cardinals inherited the meek. Without their old stars the Eagles molted until Ray Rhodes rebuilt them in his own image last year. When Denver signed Pro Bowl wide receiver Anthony Miller from San Diego, the Broncos thought they were back in the Super Bowl hunt. It turned out they were merely treading water. Without Miller the Charger passing game drooped.

"Free agency," says Marv Levy, Buffalo's sage coach, "usually hurts the team losing the player more than it helps the team signing the player."

George Young, the New York Giants' long-time general manager, takes an even more skeptical view of the process. "The free-agent system," said Young, "has gotten to be almost an accumulation of trophies. Everyone evaluates your manhood based on how many free agents you sign. One day somebody's going to write a very detailed article about what is really going on in free agency. Nobody seems to know that some of the big names do not play like big names anymore."

Young was forced into the free-agent market last winter in order to retain one of his own players. The San Francisco 49ers offered running back Rodney Hampton $16.45 million over six years, which Young matched, thereby keeping the Giants' all-time leading rusher (5,989 yards).


SETH JOYNER

Dale Zanine

Blind Loyalty

When Jimmy Johnson replaced Shula in Miami, the expectation was that he would pursue some of his former stars at Dallas as well as the best the free agent market had to offer during the winter of '95. He didn't see it that way at all.

"Any time you bring a veteran in," said Johnson, "you're going to have a guy who's been through the rigors of pro football, and who's going to have an opinion on how you do things. When you bring in a college player, he doesn't have any opinions since it's his first exposure to professional football. I'm not interested in having a lot of opinions. I want guys who want to work, and who want to do whatever it takes to win. You might say I want guys with blind loyalty."

During the first three weeks of free agency in 1996, three Miami defensive starters—linebacker Bryan Cox, cornerback Troy Vincent, and pass rusher Marco Coleman—decided their loyalties, blind or otherwise, weren't with J.J. Cox signed with Chicago, Vincent with Philadelphia, and Coleman with San Diego. Only the departure of Vincent saddened Johnson.

The Salary Cap

In many respects, free agency and the strictures of the salary cap contributed to the downfall of Shula, the most victorious coach in NFL history. After the Dolphins signed Eric Green, the huge tight end from the Steelers, Miami became the popular favorite to win the AFC championship. The assumption was that the big guy would become Dan Marino's go-to receiver in the red zone. As it turned out, Green missed 39 practices. His large signing bonus and fat contract produced amnesty for those violations.

Meanwhile, safety Gene Atkins became a one-man insurrection. He attacked a

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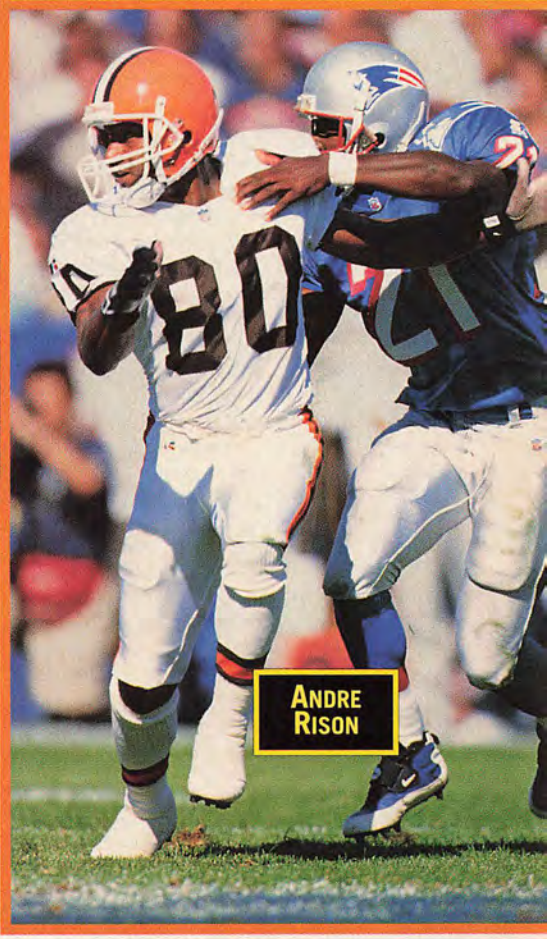
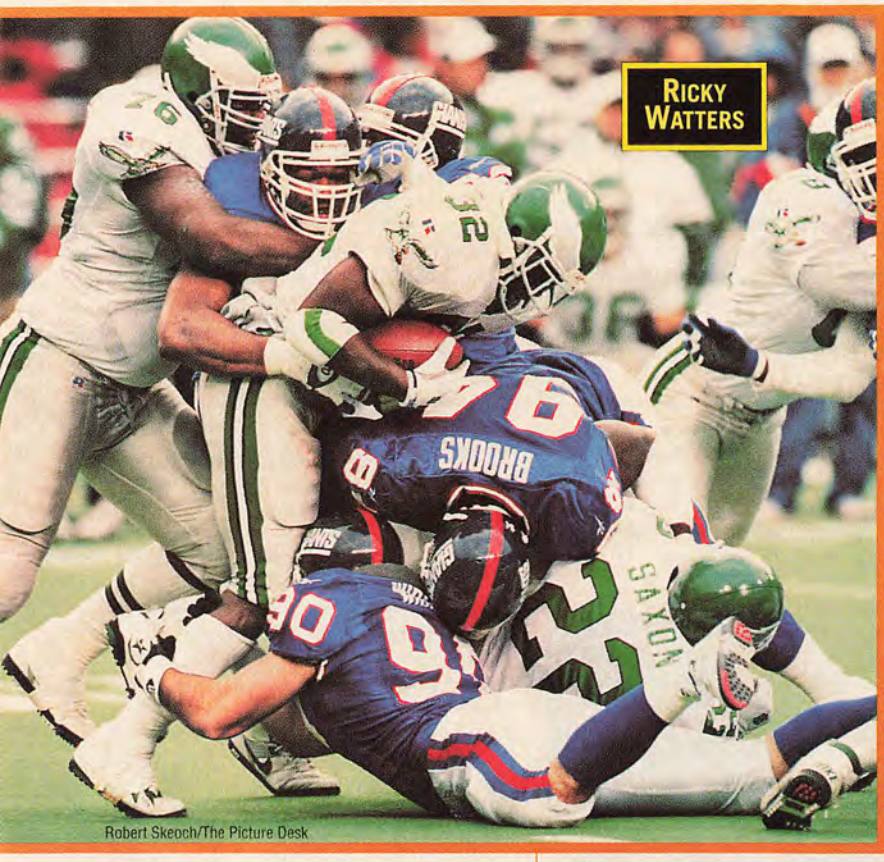

ANDRE RISON

LC Lambrecht



RICKY WATTERS

Robert Skeoch/The Picture Desk

RODNEY HAMPTON

Otto Greule/Allsport

sportswriter. He stormed out of a team meeting. Shula probably wanted to dump Atkins, but if that had happened a large portion of his contract would have been dumped on the 1995 salary cap, forcing the release of two more players.

Negative behavior was rewarded in other ways. Cox, the fiery linebacker, was uncontrollable at times, taking 150 yards in penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct during his time in Miami and rampaging on the sidelines to the distraction of his teammates. Shula was reluctant to discipline him since Cox was to become a free agent at the end of the season and the coach deemed him too valuable to lose. In the end, Shula was the casualty and Cox signed with the Chicago Bears.

The Cox signing represents another aspect of free agency: desperation. Despite Cox's unruly past, the Bears signed him to a $3.3 million package. They missed the playoffs last year after having been swept by their chief AFC Central rivals, Green Bay and Detroit. Dave Wannstedt came to Chicago from Dallas as a defensive whiz. His first Bears team yielded just 230 points, his second 307, and last year's edition 360. Opponents scored 27 points or more in seven games. Only two other NFC teams gave up more points for the season. Wannstedt is gambling Cox will help to change all that.

High Profile

There is a profile emerging for the most desirable signees: a player 25-26 years old with four years experience, mostly as a starter, and whose health profile projects at least five more years left in his career. Cornelius Bennett may still be the best coverage linebacker in the NFL, and his athleticism allows a defensive coordinator to use him in a variety of ways. He doesn't, however, match up to the profile. He is 31 and has nine years of NFL wear and tear in his background. Buffalo still liked him, but not $5 million worth, which was the signing bonus he was seeking.

Bill Polian, the Carolina GM, swung the famous three-way trade among Indianapolis and the Rams which brought Bennett to the Bills when Polian was Buffalo's GM. Yet Polian and the Panthers also passed. Atlanta, with a defense that ranked last in the NFC, paid the $5 million.

Free agency and its pilot fish, the salary cap, were designed to even out the competition in the NFL. It hasn't turned out that way yet. Teams such as Dallas, San Francisco, and Buffalo sustained losses yet managed to find ways to remain serious contenders. Free agency just emerged from its fourth market. Eventually, even the best teams will be hurt by erosion.

The Cowboy Way

The Cowboys lost 20 players during the first three free-agency periods. They included starters such as center Mark Stepnoski, linebacker Ken Norton Jr., wide receiver Alvin Harper, defensive tackle Tony Casillas, and kicker Eddie Murray. Also lost were such important role players as quarterbacks Rodney Peete and Bernie Kosar, defensive back James Washington, defensive linemen Jim Jeffcoat and Jimmie Jones, wide receiver/kick returner Kelvin Martin, and offensive linemen Kevin Gogan and John Gesek.

Free agency '96 wasn't a month old when four defensive starters from the defending Super Bowl champions departed, including cornerback Larry Brown, Super Bowl XXX's Most Valuable Player. The others were linebackers Dixon Edwards and Robert Jones and tackle Russell Maryland. Brown and Maryland signed with the Raiders, Edwards with Minnesota, and Jones with St. Louis. After Edwards became a Viking, Barry Switzer, the Cowboys' coach, launched the unintentional comedy routine of the year when he complained, "I guess team loyalty doesn't mean anything anymore; just chasing the dollar."

Prime Time

Less than six months earlier, the Cowboys and their owner, Jerry Jones, set the standard for wretched excess in free agency by signing cornerback/virtuoso Deion Sanders to a $35 million package. Dallas was the third team in three seasons for Sanders, whose signing bonus was larger than the entire contract of Emmitt Smith, the Cowboys' great running back.

When Deion's contract with San Francisco ran out last year, Jones lusted after him. The Cowboys already had a commanding lead in the NFC East when he was signed, but the owner felt the high price was worth keeping him away from the 49ers and assuring the NFC title for Dallas. As it turned out, the Cowboys were less dominant with

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Overall				League (30 Teams)	
Place	Prize	Place	Prize		
1st	20,000	6-10th	750	1st	500
2nd	7,500	11-15th	500	2nd	200
3rd	5,000	16-25th	250	3rd	150
4th	3,000	26-50th	100	4th	100
5th	1,500	51-100th	50	5th	50

Scoring

Offense					
Pass TD	4 pts	Rush TD	6 pts	Rec TD	6 pts
Pass Yds	25=1pt	Rush Yds	10=1pt	Rec Yds	10=1pt
Interception	-2 pts	Field Goal	3 pts	Extra Point	1 pt
Defense					
Shut-Out	15 pts	TD	6 pts	Fumble	2 pts
1-10 pts	10 pts	Safety	2 pts	Sack	1 pt
11-20 pts	3 pts	Interception	2 pts		

QUESTIONS:	Fax entries to:	Mail all entries to:	By Courier:
7-11 pm eastern	1-215-949-9413	Exclusively Stats	Exclusively Stats
1-800-70-STATS		P.O. Box 1216	134 Andover Road
1-800-707-8287		Langhorne, PA 19047	Fairless Hills, PA 19030

Starting Line-up

QB_____	WR_____	RB_____	K_____
QB_____	WR_____	RB_____	K_____
QB_____	WR_____	RB_____	Defense_____
TE_____	TE_____	RB_____	Defense_____

Reserves

1._____	2._____	3._____	4._____
5._____	6._____	7._____	8._____
9._____	10._____		

Name:_____
Team Name:_____
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Sanders than without him. There was a major embarrassment when San Francisco came into Texas Stadium and flattened the 'Boys in what was considered a critical late-season game.

As it turned out, the 49ers caved in on their own and the dramatic NFC championship rematch never materialized. Sanders was a major factor in the title victory over Green Bay as an offensive weapon, but much less of a factor in the Super Bowl victory over Pittsburgh.

Dallas needs to receive its money's worth from Deion this season both as a cornerback in the depleted defense and an offensive force in a more equalized NFC. Sanders needs Hall of Fame seasons to justify that money, since his presence on the payroll has restricted the Cowboys in so many ways.

To replace the departed linebackers the 'Boys signed journeyman Fred Strickland of Green Bay. After they lost Stepnoski to Houston a year ago, they signed 38-year-old Ray Donaldson from Seattle as a replacement. Late last season, Donaldson broke his leg and Derek Kennard was signed out of retirement. This spring, with Donaldson's future in doubt and Kennard retired once again, Dallas was scrambling to find a bargain free agent to start at center.

Dealing With Defections

Two years ago, the 49ers and their savvy team president, Carmen Policy, were thought to have mastered the salary cap as the franchise battled its way on the field and maneuvered its way off it to another Super Bowl victory. Things have changed. The Niners have lost 13 players to free agency since it started. Most of them were inconsequential, but last year the losses became damaging: Sanders and running back Ricky Watters, and then last spring, Eric Davis, an outstanding young cornerback.

The loss of Watters to the Eagles eventually became the negative that cut short San Francisco's title defense in its first playoff game. Following Watters' defection, William Floyd, the power back who was to become the featured ball carrier in 1995, suffered a season-ending knee injury. After that the running game floundered. In the playoff loss to Green Bay, running back Adam Walker, who had to play despite a cast which covered his broken hand, fumbled early in the game and the Packers' Craig Newsome ran the recovery back 31 yards for a touchdown. It was the game's turnaround play.

The 49ers' own excursions into free agency have been uneven. Dallas linebacker Ken Norton Jr. was an important addition, but mostly the Niners hunt aged bargains. They got one good year out of ex-Saint Rickey Jackson and now they hope for another out of Chris Doleman, who backslid in Atlanta.

Buffalo was hammered from the start of free agency, losing two Pro Bowl tackles, Will Wolford and Howard Ballard, which sent the Bills' hurry-up offense into quick descent. Then last year, Buffalo struck back, shifting its emphasis to defense. Among the reconstructive moves was the acquisition of Green Bay linebacker Bryce Paup, arguably the most effective free agent signed since the new way came to the NFL. Paup led the league with 17 1/2 sacks and the Bills' once flabby pass rush became the top sacking team (49). Not coincidentally, Buffalo reclaimed its AFC East title.

Franchise Free Agency

The Bills proved that teams can't afford not to become involved in the market place in one form or another. This year there were teams that could barely partake, some not at all, mostly because of another new phenomenon: franchise free agency.

Tampa Bay had plenty of money left under its salary cap, but the uncertainty whether the Bucs would stay in the Tampa Bay area or move elsewhere put a leash on their cash flow. Seattle quickly signed Cincinnati safety Darryl Williams but then got out of the market when owner Ken Behring made an attempt to move his franchise to Anaheim. Houston signed Kansas City receiver Willie Davis, then went silent when its owner, Bud Adams, was uncertain whether he would have to stay in Houston for at least a year or move his franchise to Nashville.

The team formerly known as the Browns knew they would play in Baltimore as the Ravens, but all the money owner Art Modell was to get for moving wasn't available to him until the heat of the free agency season was cooling down. The Ravens didn't add, but rather subtracted. Rison's contract was still their major financial problem. The Washington Redskins, awaiting the O.K. to move from RFK Stadium in the District of Columbia to suburban Maryland, barely touched free agency despite the worst record in the NFL over the last three years (13-35).

Jets Ready for Takeoff

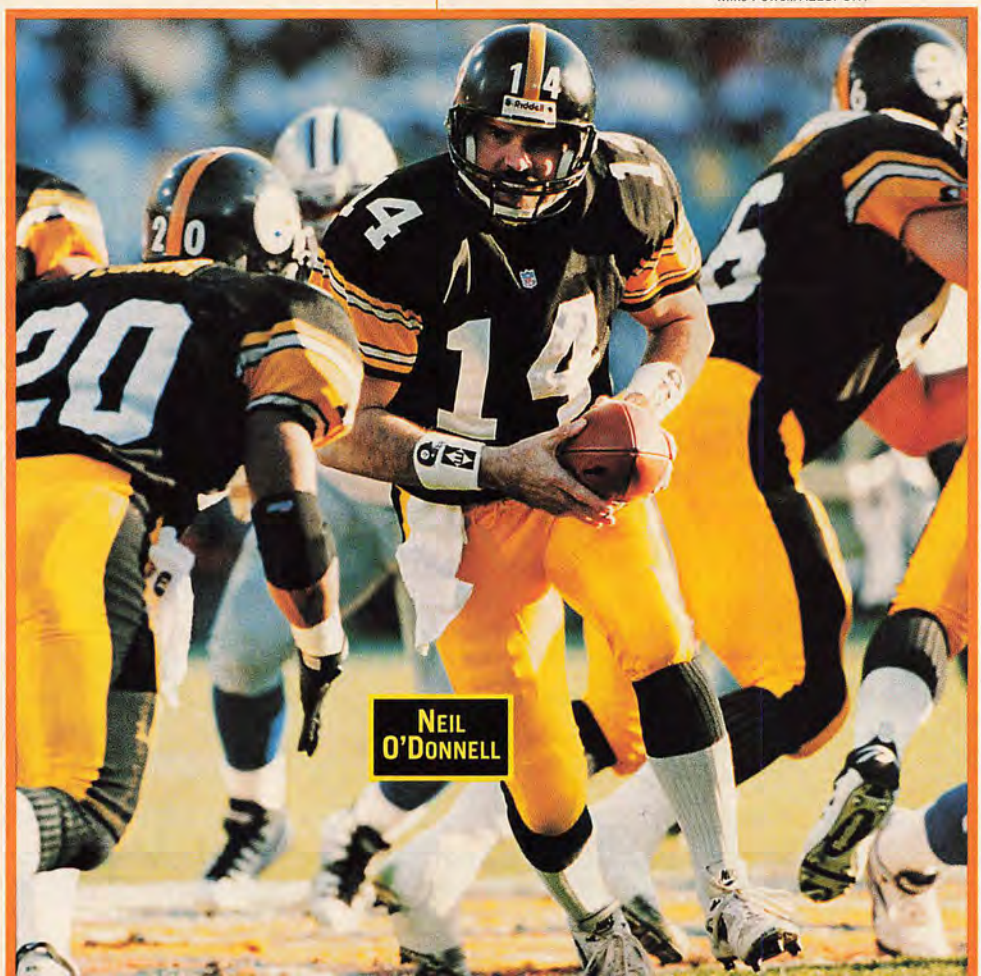
Still, as damning as the evidence can be, few teams can afford to sit around wringing their hands and muttering "Isn't it terrible?" The Jets did a version of that last year. The combined salary cap value of their 11 offensive starters was $7.96 million, about a third of which went to their quarterback, Boomer Esiason. They finished last in the NFL in offense and last in the standings.

Last spring, the Jets shot out of the free-agency starting gate. They signed two big tackles, Jumbo Elliott of the Giants and David Williams, the former Oiler. They made thunderous news by signing Neil O'Donnell, the Super Bowl quarterback, away from Pittsburgh, and gave him a top receiver in Jeff Graham of the Bears.

Just how much difference the signing will make to the Jets' won-lost record will depend upon their judgment of the talent. That's what free agency boils down to: judgment of talent.

"The same teams that screw up the college draft," said Bills GM John Butler, "screw up free agency." ❑

Mike Powell/ALLSPORT



Targets

TOMASSO DEROSA

TOUCHDOWNS

RICE, Jerry	156
Jim Brown	126
ALLEN, Marcus	125
Walter Payton	125
John Riggins	116
Lenny Moore	113
Don Hutson	105
Steve Largent	101
SMITH, Emmitt	100
Franco Harris	100
Eric Dickerson	96
Jim Taylor	93
Tony Dorsett	91
Bobby Mitchell	91
Leroy Kelly	90
Charley Taylor	90
Don Maynard	88
Lance Alworth	87
Paul Warfield	86
Ottis Anderson	86
Mark Clayton	85
Tommy McDonald	85
Pete Johnson	82
Art Powell	82
WALKER, Herschel	81
SANDERS, Barry	80
James Brooks	79
Harold Carmichael	79
Frank Gifford	78
Fred Biletnikoff	77
Steve Van Buren	77
Harold Jackson	76
James Lofton	76

POINTS

George Blanda	2,002
Jan Stenerud	1,699
LOWERY, Nick	1,634
MURRAY, Eddie	1,473
Pat Leahy	1,470
ANDERSON, Gary	1,441
ANDERSEN, Morten	1,440
Jim Turner	1,439
BAHR, Matt	1,422
Mark Moseley	1,382
Jim Bakken	1,380
Fred Cox	1,365
Lou Groza	1,349
JOHNSON, Norm	1,346
Jim Breech	1,246
Chris Bahr	1,213
Gino Cappelletti	1,130
Ray Wersching	1,122
BUTLER, Kevin	1,116
Don Cockroft	1,080
Garo Yepremian	1,074
Bruce Gossett	1,031
DEL GRECO, Al	980
Sam Baker	977
Rafael Septien	960
Lou Michaels	955
RICE, Jerry	940
REVEIZ, Fuad	931
Roy Gerela	903
Bobby Walston	881
ZENDEJAS, Tony	874
Tony Franklin	872
Pete Gogolak	863

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

MARINO, Dan	352
Fran Tarkenton	342
Johnny Unitas	290
Joe Montana	273
Sonny Jurgensen	255
Dan Fouts	254
KRIEG, Dave	247
MOON, Warren	247
John Hadl	244
Len Dawson	239
George Blanda	236
ELWAY, John	225
ESIASON, Boomer`	223
KELLY, Jim	223
John Brodie	214
Terry Bradshaw	212
Y.A. Tittle	212
Jim Hart	209
Roman Gabriel	201
Phil Simms	199
Ken Anderson	197
Joe Ferguson	196
Bobby Layne	196
Norm Snead	196
Ken Stabler	194
Steve DeBerg	193
Bob Griese	192
EVERETT, Jim	190
Sammy Baugh	187

INTERCEPTIONS

Paul Krause	81
Emlen Tunnell	79
Dick Lane	68
Ken Riley	65
Ronnie Lott	63
Dave Brown	62
Dick LeBeau	62
Emmitt Thomas	58
Mel Blount	57
Bobby Boyd	57
Johnny Robinson	57
Everson Walls	57
Lem Barney	56
Pat Fischer	56
Willie Brown	54
Jack Butler	52
Bobby Dillon	52
Jimmy Patton	52
Mel Renfro	52
Larry Wilson	52
Bobby Bryant	51
Donnie Shell	51

RECEPTIONS

RICE, Jerry	942
MONK, Art	940
Steve Largent	819
James Lofton	764
Charlie Joiner	750
ELLARD, Henry	723
REED, Andre	700
CLARK, Gary	699
Ozzie Newsome	662
Charley Taylor	649
Drew Hill	634
Don Maynard	633
Raymond Berry	631
Sterling Sharpe	595
Harold Carmichael	590
Fred Biletnikoff	589
Mark Clayton	582
Harold Jackson	579
GIVINS, Ernest	571
CARTER, Cris	571
Lionel Taylor	567
BROOKS, Bill	566
Roger Craig	566
FRYAR, Irving	562
Wes Chandler	559
Roy Green	559
Stanley Morgan	557
Eric Martin	553
ALLEN, Marcus	549
WILLIAMS, John L.	545
J.T. Smith	544
Lance Alworth	542
Kellen Winslow	541
John Stallworth	537
BYARS, Keith	532
IRVIN, Michael	527
SLAUGHTER, Webster	523
RISON, Andre	522
HARMON, Ronnie	521
Bobby Mitchell	521
Al Toon	517
JEFFIRES, Haywood	515

PASSING YARDAGE

MARINO, Dan	48,841
Fran Tarkenton	47,003
Dan Fouts	43,040
MOON, Warren	42,177
ELWAY, John	41,706
Joe Montana	40,551
Johnny Unitas	40,239
KRIEG, Dave	35,668
Jim Hart	34,665
ESIASON, Boomer	34,149
Steve DeBerg	33,872
John Hadl	33,503
Phil Simms	33,462
Ken Anderson	32,838
KELLY, Jim	32,657
Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
EVERETT, Jim	31,583
John Brodie	31,548
Norm Snead	30,797
Joe Ferguson	29,817
Roman Gabriel	29,444
Len Dawson	28,711
Y.A. Tittle	28,339
Ron Jaworski	28,190
Terry Bradshaw	27,989
Ken Stabler	27,938
Craig Morton	27,908
Joe Namath	27,663
George Blanda	26,920
Steve Grogan	26,886
Bobby Layne	26,768
Joe Theismann	25,206
Ken O'Brien	25,094
Bob Griese	25,092

RUSHING YARDAGE

Walter Payton	16,726
Eric Dickerson	13,259
Tony Dorsett	12,739
Jim Brown	12,312
Franco Harris	12,120
John Riggins	11,352
O.J. Simpson	11,236
ALLEN, Marcus	10,908
Ottis Anderson	10,273
SANDERS, Barry	10,172
THOMAS, Thurman	9,729
Earl Campbell	9,407
SMITH, Emmitt	8,956
Jim Taylor	8,597
Joe Perry	8,378
Roger Craig	8,189
Gerald Riggs	8,188
WALKER, Herschel	8,122
Larry Csonka	8,081
Freeman McNeil	8,074
James Brooks	7,962
Mike Pruitt	7,378
BYNER, Earnest	7,314
Leroy Kelly	7,274
George Rogers	7,176

Active players in 1995 in CAPS

National Football Conference

REIBEL/SPORTS PHOTO MASTERS

Everybody waits for the Cowboys to lose, but nobody beats them. In grabbing the decade by the throat, Dallas has strangled all comers

by DON PIERSON CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If the NFC is ever going to mean "Not For Cowboys," the Green Bay Packers or Philadelphia Eagles or Chicago Bears or Detroit Lions are going to have to step up and knock the world champions off their lofty perch all by themselves.

The San Francisco 49ers do their part. Sure, they let the Cowboys steal Deion Sanders and they traded them Charles Haley, but the 49ers have beaten the Cowboys three times in a row. Nobody else in the NFC has done that.

In grabbing the decade by the throat, the Cowboys have strangled all comers. Only the Washington Redskins are close, splitting 6-6 in the 1990s, including a sweep last year. But the Redskins haven't been able to beat many other people lately.

The Packers have lost seven in a row to the Cowboys, the last six in Texas Stadium, including playoffs. The Eagles have lost eight of their last nine. The New York Giants have lost seven of their last eight. The Arizona Cardinals have lost their last 11. The Bears have lost both their games against the Cowboys of the '90s.

The Lions. Ah, the Lions. They have won three of four against the Cowboys in the '90s, but the first two victories were in 1991, just before the Cowboys turned mighty.

Waiting Game

Everybody waits for the Cowboys to lose, but nobody beats them. Everybody predicts their demise, then sits back while they win. Everybody figures free agency will get them, only to watch Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin get better than ever.

Everybody guesses the rules and lawsuits will slow down Jerry Jones, who only speeds up. Everybody expects Barry Switzer will bring them down, and he laughs while he clutches the trophy. Everybody thinks they will self-destruct, yet they stay tough and tall, meeting all challenges.

If loitering until the Cowboys leave is the master plan, the NFC may be in for a long lull. They aren't going anywhere until somebody takes them there. Who will step up?

The Challengers

There are plenty of opportunities. The Cowboys open on the road on Monday night in Chicago. The Bears are the NFL's winningest franchise when it comes to season openers. They have won 37 of them, including 11 of the last 12. They think they're pretty good. They were the only winning team in the league last year not to make the playoffs. This is their chance to show the country the tables are turning.

How do the Cowboys respond? Look at the record. They opened on the road last year against the Giants and began their Super Bowl run with a resounding 35-0 victory. In all three of their Super Bowl winning seasons, they have started out on Monday night. They lost one in Washington in 1993 and still won it all.

The Eagles get their chance on Monday

night, September 30, in Veterans Stadium. Coach Ray Rhodes already has spliced game film with Switzer's boasts following the Cowboys' 30-11 playoff victory over the Eagles in January.

The 49ers get their shot November 10 in 3-Com Park. The date follows an emotional road trip for Dallas to Miami to play former coach Jimmy Johnson and a division rematch at home against the Eagles.

The Packers get their seventh chance in a row in Texas Stadium, Monday night, November 18, right after the Cowboys return from San Francisco. Is this the charm? Can the Packers break the jinx?

The Redskins get the Cowboys in Dallas on Thanksgiving, four days after the Cowboys travel to New York to play the Giants.

The Cowboys have three Monday night games, two on the road in September, plus another September trip to Buffalo. They play on Thanksgiving. They play four games in the East that start at 4 P.M. to anchor TV double-headers, meaning they travel home late from Buffalo, Miami, New York, and Washington.

You say you want the Cowboys to lose? Go ahead. Beat 'em.

Who Left? Who Arrived?

To further balance the scales, the Cowboys allowed four starters from their defense to defect and barely batted an eye. Super Bowl MVP cornerback Larry Brown and defensive tackle Russell Maryland, the former No. 1 pick of the draft, signed with Oakland. Linebackers Robert Jones and Dixon Edwards fled to St. Louis and Minnesota, respectively, where they hope to be used more than the one or two downs the Cowboys needed them.

The 49ers lost their top cornerback for the second year in a row. Eric Davis went to Carolina, following Deion Sanders' exit to Dallas. This is no way to cover Michael Irvin or Herman Moore or Robert Brooks.

The Lions lost All-Pro linebacker Chris Spielman to Buffalo and All-Pro left tackle Lomas Brown to Arizona. They replaced them with Michael Brooks and Ray Roberts. The Lions also lost their leading interceptor, Willie Clay, to New England. Spielman might be the one NFC player to turn around the entire AFC.

The Bears, Eagles, Falcons, Panthers, and Rams all raided the AFC in search of defense, a strange place to find it. The Bears signed Miami's top pass rusher, Bryan Cox. The Eagles signed Miami's best defensive back, Troy Vincent. The Falcons signed the Bills' best linebacker, Cornelius Bennett.The Panthers signed the Steelers' pass-rushing linebacker Kevin Greene. The Rams signed the Chargers' best pass rusher, Leslie O'Neal. The NFC figured if the AFC can steal its two best pass rushers last season in Bryce Paup and Pat Swilling, turnabout is fair play.

Who Is Passing Whom?

The conventional wisdom is the NFC runs and plays defense while the AFC passes and chases. It's been that way since Walter Payton and Eric Dickerson were running for the NFC and John Elway, Jim Kelly, and Dan Marino were drafted by the AFC. So what is happening now?

Nine NFC receivers broke the 100-catch mark last season; none in the AFC. Detroit's Herman Moore caught 123 to break the record of 122 set in 1994 by Minnesota's Cris Carter Carter and San Francisco's Jerry Rice each had 122. St. Louis's Isaac Bruce had 119. Dallas's Irvin had 111. Moore's teammate Brett Perriman had 108, making Moore and Perriman the most prolific duo in history.

In the erstwhile Black-and-Blue Central Division, home of Ray Nitschke and Dick Butkus and Alan Page and Spielman, the Packers, Vikings, Lions, and Bears produced the 1-2-3-4 quarterbacks in touchdown passes: Brett Favre (38), Warren Moon (33), Scott Mitchell (32), and Erik Kramer (29). The top eight passers in the NFC, according to passer rating, threw 218 touchdown passes. The top eight passers in the AFC threw 145.

Up-and-Comers

If the Giants win more than five games, defensive coordinator Mike Nolan goes directly to the head of the class.

If Philly keep winning with the NFL's No. 29 pass offense, offensive coordinator Jon Gruden knows more than he should.

If the Bears outscore the Packers for a change, offensive coordinator Ron Turner joins brother Norv in the front seat.

Oldies and Goodies

Nobody played better at linebacker than Carolina's Sam Mills, 37 and counting. Nobody had more sacks in the NFC than Philadelphia's William Fuller (34). Nobody ever kicked more 50-yard field goals than Atlanta's Morten Andersen (36). No 39-year-old quarterback ever threw 33 TD passes until Minnesota's Warren Moon. Nobody in the NFC caught 50 passes for a better average than the 17.9 yards turned in by Washington's Henry Ellard (35). Nobody ever played linebacker at age 40. Will Atlanta's Clay Matthews?

Keep an Eye On

Rashaan Salaam. The Bears' running back was the youngest player in the league last season. Only three years removed from eight-man high school football, he gained 1,074 yards.

Kerry Collins. Who says there are no young quarterbacks? The guy won seven of his 13 starts with an expansion team.

Frank Sanders. No NFC rookie receiver caught more passes than he did, and he plays for the Cardinals.

Gilbert Brown. If he stays healthy, the Packers won't be able to hide this 330-pounder stuck between Reggie White and Sean Jones.

Johnny Johnson. He wasn't bad when he left two years ago. Now the running back is with a good team, the 49ers.

Lawrence Phillips. All eyes are on the Rams' rookie running back, the best player in the draft.

PREDICTIONS

NFC EAST	NFC CENTRAL	NFC WEST
1. Dallas Cowboys	1. Green Bay Packers	1. San Francisco 49ers
2. Philadelphia Eagles	2. Chicago Bears	2. Atlanta Falcons
3. Arizona Cardinals	3. Detroit Lions	3. New Orleans Saints
4. Washington Redskins	4. Minnesota Vikings	4. St. Louis Rams
5. New York Giants	5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers	5. Carolina Panthers

NFC CHAMPION: Green Bay Packers
Wild Cards: Chicago Bears, Detroit Lions, Philadelphia Eagles

1996 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE	DEFENSE
QB...Brett Favre, Green Bay	DE ...Reggie White, Green Bay
RB...Emmitt Smith, Dallas	DE ...William Fuller, Philadelphia
RB...Barry Sanders, Detroit	DT....Bryant Young, San Francisco
WR ..Jerry Rice, San Francisco	DT....John Randle, Minnesota
WR ..Herman Moore, Detroit	OLB . Ken Harvey, Washington
TE....Mark Chmura, Green Bay	OLB .William Thomas, Philadelphia
OC ..Kevin Glover, Detroitl	ILB...Sam Mills, Carolina
OG ..Larry Allen, Dallas	ILB...Bryan Cox, Chicago
OG ..Todd Perry, Chicago	CB ...Aeneas Williams, Arizona
OT ...Bob Whitfield, Atlanta	CB ...Deion Sanders, Dallas
OT ...Willie Roaf, New Orleans	S.....LeRoy Butler, Green Bay
PK ...Morten Andersen, Atlanta	S.....Merton Hanks, San Francisco
KR ...Brian Mitchell, Washington	P.....Craig Hentrich, Green Bay

Dallas Cowboys

The king Cowboys already have lived long by NFL standards. They are the team of the '90s with the decade only half over. To continue their success at such a high level would defy reason if not rules.

Enter Jerry Jones. Here is an owner who lives by the motto *Rules are made to be bent if not broken.* While being sued by fellow owners for $300 million for alleged violations of licensing agreements, Jones is being pursued by 29 other teams on the field. Make that 30. In an apparent effort to create more competition, the Cowboys are busy trying to dismantle themselves.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Smith, 150 points on 25 touchdowns 1st

RUSHING—Smith, 1,773 yards on 377 carries, 4.7 avg., 25 TDs 1st

PASSING—Aikman, 280 of 432 attempts for 3,304 yards and 16 TDs 2nd

RECEIVING—Irvin, 111 receptions for 1,603 yards, 14.4 avg., 10 TDs 5th

INTERCEPTIONS—Marion, 6 for 40 yards, 6.7 average, 1 TD T4th

Brown, 6 for 124 yards, 20.7 average, 2 TDs T4th

PUNTING—Jett, 53 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 58 yards 12th

PUNT RETURNS—Williams, 18 for 166 yards, 9.2 average ..... unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Williams, 49 for 1,108 yards, 22.6 average 6th

SACKS—Haley, 10.5 sacks T8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	OAKLAND (N)
August	5	vs. Kansas City at Monterrey, Mexico (N)
	12	NEW ENGLAND (N)
	17	DENVER (N)
	24	vs. Houston at Orlando, FL (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	2	At Chicago (N)	
	8	N.Y. GIANTS	21-20
	15	INDIANAPOLIS	
	22	At Buffalo	
	30	At Philadelphia (N)	17-20
October	6	Open Date	
	13	ARIZONA	34-20
	20	ATLANTA	28-13
	27	At Miami	
November	3	PHILADELPHIA	34-12
	10	At San Francisco	20-38
	18	GREEN BAY (N)	34-24
	24	At N.Y. Giants	35-0
	28	WASHINGTON	17-24
December	8	At Arizona	37-13
	15	NEW ENGLAND	
	22	At Washington	23-27

MITCHELL B. REIBEL

Troy Aikman ascends from excellent to spectacular in the playoffs, trailing only Bart Starr in the all-time rankings.

Withstand and Deliver

So far, the Cowboys have been able to withstand the attrition of injury and free-agency defection caused by the limitations of the salary cap. They have been able to endure as long as Troy Aikman is handing off to Emmitt Smith and throwing to Michael Irvin. Now Irvin threatens to spoil the trio of fun by getting indicted for possession of cocaine and marijuana.

But even if Irvin must miss playing time on a suspension, it might not be enough. For one thing, Deion Sanders has come to the rescue again. He skipped baseball to concentrate on adding wide receiver to his résumé. Coach Barry Switzer already has christened him a potential all-star once Deion goes through an off-season and training camp.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys' defense lost four more starters and has barely noticed. Not yet anyway. Until the replacements are exposed as ordinary, or until Charles Haley can no longer rush the passer, the defense will continue to be good enough to complement the team's great offensive strength.

Who can stop the Cowboys if not themselves? That's the question on the minds of defensive coordinators everywhere as they look at Aikman, Smith, and Irvin and see three guys who were leading the league in passing, running, and receiving at one time last season.

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Accurate Aikman

Aikman finished behind only Jim Harbaugh and Brett Favre in passer rating during the regular season. In the postseason, Aikman ascends from excellent to spectacular, trailing only Green Bay's Bart Starr in the all-time rankings. Put him in the playoffs and Aikman gets sharper. His postseason passer rating of 104.3 is more than 20 points better than his lofty 83.5 for the regular season.

Aikman will turn 30 this season, which in quarterback years means he is only entering prime time. One of the most accurate passers ever, he completed over 70 percent in seven of the 14 games he played last season. This year, his long-passing accuracy could get a welcome test if the Sanders experiment works. Aikman is backed by Wade Wilson and Jason Garrett.

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	228	30	UCLA
73	Allen, Larry	T	6-3	325	25	Sonoma St.
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	210	36	Tennessee
91	Benson, Darren	DT	6-7	305	22	Trinity Valley
86	Bjornson, Eric	TE	6-4	215	25	Washington
18	Boniol, Chris	K	5-11	159	25	Louisiana Tech
29	Brice, Alundis	CB	5-10	178	27	Mississippi
43	Briggs, Greg	S	6-3	212	28	Texas Southern
96	Carver, Shante	DE	6-5	242	26	Arizona St.
25	Case, Scott	S	6-1	188	35	Oklahoma
87	Davis, Billy	WR	6-1	199	24	Pittsburgh
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	311	36	Georgia
17	Garrett, Jason	QB	6-2	195	31	Princeton
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	255	32	James Madison
47	Harper, Roger	S	6-2	225	26	Ohio State
69	Hegamin, George	T	6-7	338	24	N.C. State
70	Hellestrae, Dale	C	6-5	286	34	SMU
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	288	31	Air Force
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	205	31	Miami
19	Jett, John	P	6-0	194	28	East Carolina
48	Johnston, Daryl	RB	6-2	242	31	Syracuse
38	Lang, David	RB	5-11	210	29	North. Arizona
78	Lett, Leon	DT	6-6	288	28	Emporia St.
31	Marion, Brock	S	5-11	189	27	Nevada
99	McCormack, Hurvin	DT	6-5	274	25	Indiana
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	242	28	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	320	34	Florida A&M
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	234	34	Wyoming
36	Ross, Dominique	RB	6-0	203	25	Valdosta St.
21	Sanders, Deion	CB	6-1	185	29	Florida State
52	Schwantz, Jim	LB	6-2	232	27	Purdue
59	Smith, Darrin	LB	6-1	230	27	Miami
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	27	Florida
26	Smith, Kevin	CB	5-11	188	26	Texas A&M
55	Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	250	30	Purdue
90	Sturgis, Oscar	DE	6-5	280	26	North Carolina
51	Thomas, Broderick	LB	6-4	242	30	Nebraska
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	263	29	Texas-El Paso
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	305	36	Hawaii
83	Watkins, Kendell	TE	6-1	305	24	Mississippi St.
42	Williams, Charlie	S	6-0	190	25	Bowling Green
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	322	28	Central State
85	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-9	195	26	Miami
20	Williams, Sherman	RB	5-8	190	23	Alabama
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	206	38	East Texas St.
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	215	28	Arizona St.

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Pittman, Kavika	DE	6-5	246	McNeese St.
2	Godfrey, Randall	LB	6-2	252	Georgia
3	Shiver, Clay	C	6-2	285	Florida State
3	Williams, Stepfret	WR	5-11	167	NE Louisiana
3	Ulufale, Mike	DT	6-5	285	BYU
5	McDaniel, Kenneth	G	6-2	330	Norfolk St.
5	Campos, Alan	LB	6-3	228	Louisville
6	Davis, Wendell	CB	5-10	184	Oklahoma
7	Wood, Ryan	RB	5-11	235	Arizona St.

Prime-Time Reception

Irvin set a record with 11 games of 100 yards receiving and finished with 111 catches and 10 touchdowns, career highs, proving he didn't need Alvin Harper on the other side after all. Could he use Sanders on the other side? The Cowboys will find out when Sanders is used to spell Kevin Williams. This is not a gimmick. When the Cowboys began off-season workouts in April, Sanders was a regular for special sessions between quarterbacks and receivers. He is determined to keep viable the commercial possibilities of the word "both."

Always forgotten in the mix by everybody but Aikman is tight end Jay Novacek, the most ignored five-time Pro Bowler. His 62 receptions tied him for first at his position in the NFC. He is the man Aikman looks for whenever there is trouble. Blocker Kendell Watkins was effective as a rookie, but as is the case almost everywhere you look on this team, the Cowboys are not deep at receiver, which is why they drafted Stepfret Williams of Northeast Louisiana.

Smith on Payton Pace

At age 27, Smith is coming off his greatest season, with 1,773 yards and an NFL-record 25 touchdowns. The yardage put him over the halfway mark toward Walter Payton's rushing record (16,726 to 8,956). He became only the fifth player to earn four rushing titles and is now only 14 rushing touchdowns away from Payton's mark of 110. For the first time in years, the Cowboys feel somewhat comfortable giving Smith a breather, as Sherman Williams looked good in brief appearances as a rookie.

Experience on the Line

The Cowboys are getting no younger up front and lost top backup Ron Stone to the Giants. But if third-round rookie Clay Shiver of Florida State can compete with 38-year-old Ray Donaldson at center, it will be a good sign for the future. Donaldson is coming off a broken leg. Left tackle Mark Tuinei begins season 14 at age 36 and left guard Nate Newton begins season 11 and will turn 35 before it's over. To continue the tradition of fat guards, the Cowboys selected 6-2, 330-pound Kenneth McDaniel of Norfolk State in round five. Right guard Larry Allen, the team's youngest lineman, is also the best, outplaying right tackle Erik Williams and making his first Pro Bowl.

Defensive Defections

The defense lost two No. 1 draft choices, Russell Maryland and Robert Jones, and the Most Valuable Player in the Super Bowl, Larry Brown. It also lost linebacker Dixon Edwards. Still, Dallas expects big things. Chad Hennings will replace Maryland at tackle next to Leon Lett. Unless Darren Benson or Hurvin McCormack or draft choice Mike Ulufale can help out, the Cowboys are bound to miss the rotation system that kept the tackles fresh.

For the second time in three years, their top draft choice was a defensive end. Kavika Pittman of McNeese State, a second-rounder, follows the selection of Shante Carver in '95. If they can hold up, both will get plenty of opportunity to spell Haley and Tony Tolbert. Haley had 10 1/2 sacks despite a back injury that keeps him from practicing. At age 32 entering his 11th season, he is unlikely to get healthier.

Dealing With Free Agency

To replace Jones and Edwards, the Cowboys signed free agents from the NFC Central, Minnesota's Broderick Thomas and Green Bay's Fred Strickland, and drafted Georgia's Randall Godfrey in the second round. Similar to Jones, Strickland should be able to plug the middle. Thomas is bigger than the prototypical Dallas linebacker and can provide a pass-rush dimension if his off-field problems are settled. He was arrested on drunken driving and possession of a handgun charges within a six-month period. He will have to beat out Godfrey Myles, who is coming off knee surgery, and stay ahead of Godfrey. Darrin Smith is the Cowboys' best linebacker and Jim Schwantz is the top reserve.

Secondary Strength

Super Bowl MVP Brown joined Maryland in fleeing to the Oakland Raiders, but with the recovery of Kevin Smith from Achilles surgery, Brown was not likely to start the season anyway. Sanders makes the whole secondary better with his ability to take away the opponent's best receiver. Strong safety Darren Woodson, also a Pro Bowler, signed a big contract to stay. Free safety Brock Marion tied Brown for the team lead with six interceptions. The Cowboys lost backup Robert Bailey to Miami, but have Alundis Brice, Charlie Williams, Bill Bates, and Scott Case as reserves and traded for Atlanta's Roger Harper.

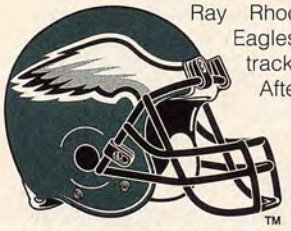
Kicking Back

Chris Boniol led the NFL in kicking accuracy, missing only one of 28 tries on a team that barely needs field goals. John Jett punted fewer times (53) than anybody else. When Kevin Williams needs help returning punts or kickoffs, he can always call on Sanders.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Barry Switzer, Head Coach
Hudson Houck, Asst. Head Coach/Offensive Line
Dave Campo, Defensive Coordinator
Ernie Zampese, Offensive Coordinator
Hubbard Alexander, Receivers
Joe Avezzano, Special Teams
Jim Bates, Linebackers
Craig Boller, Defensive Tackles
Joe Brodsky, Running Backs
Robert Ford, Tight Ends
Tommy Hart, Defensive Ends
Steve Hoffman, Kickers/Quality Control
Clancy Pendergast, Defensive Asst./Quality Control
Mike Wiocik, Strength & Control
Mike Zimmer, Defensive Backs

Philadelphia Eagles



Ray Rhodes wants his Eagles to have a one-track mind: Dallas. After the Cowboys eliminated the Eagles in the playoffs in January, Cowboys coach Barry Switzer said: "We kicked their [rear]." Rhodes has turned it into a battle cry his team will hear until their Monday night meeting September 30.

"Everything's been recorded and taped. The sound byte's been recorded and taped. It'll be spliced into our game film. Every time we look at the film, that will be spliced in," Rhodes said. "Every coach in the league loves it when comments like that are made. They get your team fired up."

Colossus of Rhodes

Everything Rhodes does is aimed at the Cowboys. The Eagles made huge tackle Jermane Mayberry their No. 1 draft choice with the idea of starting him at left guard to match up against Dallas defensive tackle Leon Lett. Last year's left guard, Guy McIntyre, was good but undersized in a division with Lett, Eric Swann, and now the Redskins' Sean Gilbert. Mayberry weighs 320. "A lot goes into being able to match up with them and do certain things," Rhodes said.

That Rhodes is able to concentrate on the world champions is a minor miracle in itself. By all rights, the Eagles had no business winning 10 games in Rhodes's rookie season as coach, not with the 29th passing offense and a patchwork lineup. But there they were, the only NFC team to get outscored and still make the playoffs. Rhodes was an easy choice for Coach of the Year.

Defying Convention

On the way, he benched prima donna quarterback Randall Cunningham for journeyman Rodney Peete, whose leadership enabled the Eagles to win 10 of the 13 games in which he started or played a major role off the bench. He threw only eight touchdown passes and 14 interceptions, finishing 13th in the NFC in passer rating. But the Eagles won.

This year, Rhodes is defying convention again. He signed Green Bay backup Ty Detmer to compete for the starting job, even though Detmer has thrown 21 passes in four years as a pro, two of which he didn't play a down. What attracts the Eagles to the barely six-foot Detmer is his

A passing game is crucial to the survival and effectiveness of running back Ricky Watters.

TOMASSO De ROSA

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 98 points on 32 extra points and 22 field goals 12th

RUSHING—Watters, 1,273 yards on 337 carries, 3.8 avg., 11 TDs.....4th

PASSING—Peete, 215 of 375 attempts for 2,326 yards and 8 TDs 13th

RECEIVING—Williams, 63 receptions for 768 yards, 12.2 avg., 2 TDs.....T18th

INTERCEPTIONS—Thomas, 7 for 104 yards, 14.9 average, 1 TD 3rd

PUNTING—Hutton, 85 punts, 43.3 avg., longest 63 yards.....3rd

PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 17 for 214 yards, 12.6 average .....unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Garner, 29 for 590 yards, 20.3 average 15th

SACKS—Fuller, 13.0 sacks.....T1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At Baltimore (N)
	8	N. Y. JETS (N)
	18	At New England
	23	PITTSBURGH (N)

1996 SCHEDULE — 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Washington	14-7
	9	At Green Bay (N)	
	15	DETROIT	
	22	At Atlanta (N)	
	30	DALLAS (N)	20-17
October	6	Open Date	
	13	At N.Y. Giants	17-14
	20	MIAMI	
	27	CAROLINA	
November	3	At Dallas	12-34
	10	BUFFALO	
	17	WASHINGTON	37-34
	24	At Arizona	31-19
December	1	N.Y. GIANTS	28-19
	5	At Indianapolis (N)	
	14	At N.Y. Jets	
	22	ARIZONA	21-20

knowledge of the system installed by Eagles offensive coordinator Jon Gruden, who tutored Detmer in Green Bay. Said Rhodes: "I think he's going to surprise a lot of people. He's smart. He's a winner. That counts a lot in my book. He's one of those guys who finds a way to get it done." Ohio State's Bobby Hoying is a third-round prospect with pro size who might be in the right place at the right time.

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Anderson, Gary	K	5-11	179	37	Syracuse
90	Barrie, Sebastian	DT	6-2	280	27	Liberty
69	Boatswain, Harry	T	6-4	295	28	New Haven
21	Boykin, Deral	S	5-11	198	26	Louisville
87	Brady, Rickey	TE	6-4	246	26	Oklahoma
76	Brooks, Barrett	T	6-4	309	25	Kansas State
81	Carpenter, Rob	WR	6-2	190	28	Syracuse
71	Chalenski, Mike	DT	6-5	285	27	UCLA
71	Cooper, Richard	T	6-5	290	32	Tennessee
68	Cornish, Frank	C	6-4	287	29	UCLA
12	Cunningham, R.	QB	6-4	205	34	UNLV
78	Davis, Antone	T	6-4	335	30	Tennessee
11	Detmer, Ty	QB	6-0	194	29	BYU
90	Dixon, Ronnie	DT	6-3	292	26	Cincinnati
75	Drake, Troy	T	6-6	289	25	Indiana
65	Elewonibi, Mo	T	6-4	286	31	BYU
11	Fiedler, Jay	QB	6-1	214	25	Dartmouth
23	Frazier, Derrick	CB	5-10	172	27	Texas A&M
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	33	Nebraska
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	280	35	North Carolina
30	Garner, Charlie	RB	5-9	187	25	Tennessee
96	Gunn, Mark	DE	6-5	297	28	Pittsburgh
97	Hall, Rhett	DT	6-2	276	28	California
91	Harmon, Andy	DT	6-4	278	28	Kent State
20	Hebron, Vaughn	RB	5-8	195	26	Virginia Tech
26	Henderson, Jer.	CB	5-10	188	27	Clemson
73	Holmes, Lester	G	6-3	301	26	Jackson St.
4	Hutton, Tom	P	6-1	193	24	Tennessee
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	204	30	LSU
88	Johnson, Jimmie	TE	6-2	248	30	Howard
94	Johnson, Kevin	DT	6-1	310	26	Texas Southern
80	Johnson, Reggie	TE	6-2	255	29	Florida State
94	Jonassen, Eric	T	6-5	310	28	Bloomsburg
82	Jones, Chris T.	WR	6-3	209	25	Miami
59	Mamula, Mike	DE	6-4	248	23	Boston College
41	McCrary, Fred	RB	6-0	210	24	Mississippi St.
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	276	36	Georgia
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	C	6-2	283	34	Tennessee
58	Oden, Derrick	LB	5-11	237	26	Alabama
63	Panos, Joe	G	6-2	296	25	Wisconsin
9	Peete, Rodney	QB	6-0	225	31	USC
64	Rudolph, Joe	G	6-1	282	24	Wisconsin
22	Saxon, James	RB	5-11	239	31	San Jose St.
82	Seay, Mark	WR	6-0	175	30	Long Beach St.
17	Solomon, Fred	WR	5-11	180	24	S. C. State
21	Taylor, Bobby	CB	6-3	208	23	Notre Dame
51	Thomas, William	LB	6-2	223	28	Texas A&M
34	Turner, Kevin	RB	6-0	224	27	Alabama
23	Vincent, Troy	CB	6-0	184	27	Wisconsin
27	Walker, Adam	RB	6-1	210	29	Pittsburgh
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	280	32	Auburn
32	Watters, Ricky	RB	6-1	217	28	Notre Dame
83	West, Ed	TE	6-1	245	35	Auburn
42	Whitmore, David	S	6-0	232	29	Stephen F. Austin
45	Wilburn, Barry	S	6-2	196	33	Mississippi
74	Williams, Bernard	T	6-8	317	24	Georgia
89	Williams, Calvin	WR	5-11	187	30	Purdue
50	Willis, James	LB	6-1	235	24	Auburn
31	Witherspoon, D.	RB	5-11	197	26	Clemson
57	Woodard, Marc	LB	6-0	238	27	Mississippi St.
52	Wright, Sylvester	LB	6-2	244	25	Kansas
27	Zomalt, Eric	S	5-11	197	24	California
36	Zordich, Michael	S	6-1	212	33	Penn State

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Mayberry, Jermane	T	6-4	320	Tex. A&M-K.ville
2	Dunn, Jason	TE	6-4	240	Eastern Kentucky
2	Dawkins, Brian	S	6-0	188	Clemson
3	Hoying, Bobby	QB	6-3	225	Ohio State
4	Farmer, Ray	S	6-3	225	Duke
5	Marshall, Whit	LB	6-3	240	Georgia
6	White, Steve	DE	6-2	260	Tennessee
6	Johnson, Tony	TE	6-3	255	Alabama
6	Riley, Phillip	WR	5-11	185	Florida State

Revamped Receiving Corps

The Eagles addressed a real problem in the receiving corps by signing veteran Irving Fryar from Miami to replace the departed Fred Barnett. At age 33, Fryar is a gamble, but he proved he still has some big-play capability left. Rhodes is hopeful second-year man Chris T. Jones will make his presence felt and at least push last year's leading receiver, Calvin Williams.

What should benefit the passing game more than anything else is the addition of second-round tight end Jason Dunn of Eastern Kentucky, a big, athletic prospect who will be much more of a receiving threat than Ed West, Jimmie Johnson, or Reggie Johnson, who caught only 31 passes among them last year for three touchdowns. Dunn comes with some question marks pertaining to work ethic, but Rhodes recalls that last year's second-round steal, cornerback Bobby Taylor, had a similar reputation that Rhodes quickly straightened out.

Improving the Rush

A passing game is crucial to the survival and effectiveness of running back Ricky Watters, who got his wish of being "the man" when he escaped the star-studded 49ers. Watters rushed 337 times, third in the NFC, but his average was just 3.8 yards, which slid to 2.9 over the last six games as teams ganged up on him. Watters also caught 62 passes, trailing Williams by one as team leader.

Sure to improve the running game is the expected return of blocking fullback Kevin Turner, the ex-Patriot who missed all of last season with a knee injury. If Turner is effective, it will benefit both Watters and change-of-pace scatback Charlie Garner, whose 5.4-yard average led the league for any runner with more than 100 carries. Fred McCrary, James Saxon, and Derrick Witherspoon lend depth.

The Main Line

Mayberry isn't the only change on the offensive line. The Eagles expect Bernard Williams to return from a drug suspension. He will compete with second-year man Barrett Brooks and former San Francisco starter starter Steve Wallace at left tackle. Free-agent acquisition Richard Cooper from the Saints will replace one of Buddy Ryan's leftover mistakes, right tackle Antone Davis. Lester Holmes is back from a patellar tendon injury and should be able to take over at right guard. Joe Panos is supposed to replace Raleigh McKenzie at center. Harry Boatswain, Joe Rudolph, Frank Cornish, and Mo Elewonibi are backups.

Sack Time

William Fuller tied for the NFC lead with 13 sacks from left end and was ideally complemented by left tackle Andy Harmon, who had 11. Together, they formed the most productive sack tandem in the NFC, ranking behind only the Bills' Bryce Paup and Bruce Smith in the league. Mike Mamula had 5 1/2 sacks as a rookie, but they came in two games. He is limited because of size, but pass rushers usually make considerable improvement between their first and second years. Right tackle Rhett Hall missed most of last season with a blood clot in his lung but is back in action. Kevin Johnson and Ronnie Dixon will push for playing time. Dan Stubbs was lost to Miami.

Losing Gouveia

Losing middle linebacker Kurt Gouveia to San Diego leaves the Eagles with Derrick Oden and James Willis, which is why they spent the middle of their draft on two linebackers. Rightside backer William Thomas is coming off an outstanding year. His seven interceptions were the most by an NFL linebacker since Baltimore's Stan White had eight in 1975. Left linebacker Bill Romanowski went to Denver, leaving Marc Woodard the job unless fourth-rounder Ray Farmer of Duke can make the switch from his college position of free safety. At 6-3 and 225, Farmer has the size.

Turning the Corner

Signing cornerback Troy Vincent from the Dolphins more than makes up for the loss of Mark McMillian to the Saints. Although McMillian was an excellent cover man, his 5-7 stature limited him. The 6-0 Vincent will look good on the left side opposite the 6-3 Taylor, who came into his own as a rookie with a big game against the Cowboys' Michael Irvin.

Michael Zordich is back at strong safety and Rhodes expects his second No. 2 draft pick, Brian Dawkins of Clemson, to replace Greg Jackson as the starting free safety. Derrick Frazier, Jerome Henderson, Eric Zomalt, and David Whitmore will compete for backup jobs.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Ray Rhodes, Head Coach
Jon Gruden, Offensive Coordinator
Emmitt Thomas, Defensive Coordinator
Bill Callahan, Offensive Line
Dick Jamieson, Running Backs
Gerald Carr, Wide Receivers
Ted Williams, Tight Ends
Mike Trgovac, Defensive Line
Joe Vitt, Linebackers
Danny Smith, Special Teams
Juan Castillo, Offensive Assistant
Chuck Knox Jr., Defensive Assistant

Hits and Misses

The Eagles got excellent punting from rookie Tom Hutton, who finished third in the NFC. Veteran Gary Anderson hit only 8 of 15 field goals from beyond 40 yards, not a great year for one of the most accurate kickers in history. He is 37. The Eagles were below average in returning kicks. Kelvin Martin got hurt and nobody else stepped up. The coverage teams need big-time improvement. They allowed two punts for touchdowns.

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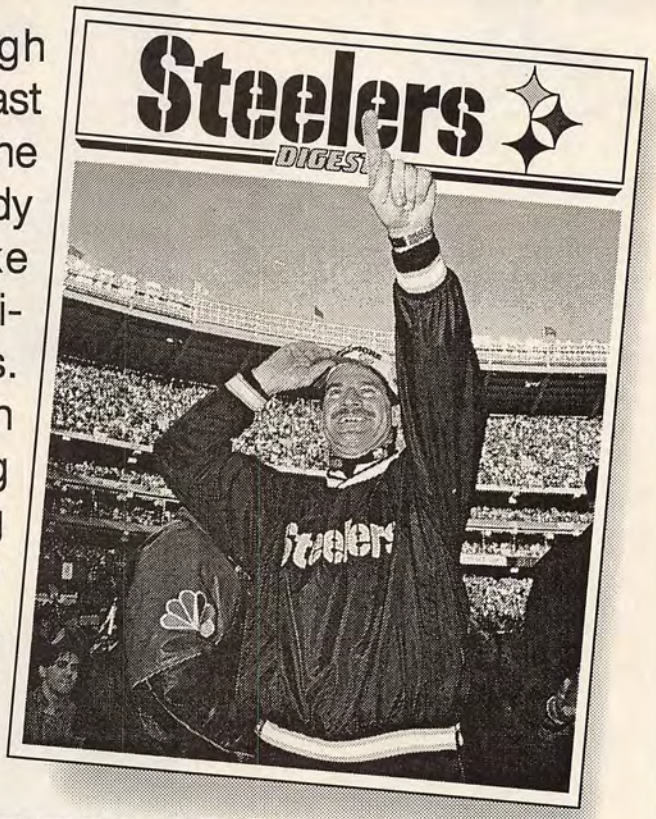

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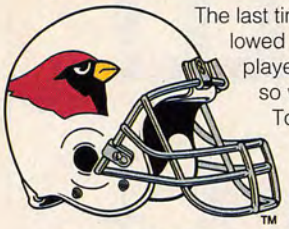
Arizona Cardinals



The last time Vince Tobin followed Buddy Ryan, the players were better and so were expectations. Tobin took over the defense of the Chicago Bears after the magical 1985 season when Ryan took over the Philadelphia Eagles. Tobin's Chicago defenses set records that Ryan's defenses couldn't, yet the Bears never returned to the Super Bowl. Assuming the reins of the Arizona Cardinals after the "winner in town" left as a loser presents new problems. Although fans are happy to see Tobin, they would prefer to spot players who can provide results.

Tobin agrees. One of the first things he did was rescue quarterback Boomer Esiason from the New York Jets in a youth movement. Although Esiason is 35, his predecessor, Dave Krieg, is 37. Improvement often appears in small increments.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Davis, 109 points on 19 extra points and 30 field goals 8th

RUSHING—Hearst, 1,070 yards on 284 carries, 3.8 avg., 1 TD.....9th

PASSING—Krieg, 304 of 521 attempts for 3,554 yards and 16 TDs 11th

RECEIVING—Centers, 101 receptions for 962 yards, 9.5 avg., 2 TDs.....9th

INTERCEPTIONS—Williams, 6 for 86 yards, 14.3 average, 2 TDs T4th

PUNTING—Feagles, 72 punts, 43.8 avg., longest 60 yards.....2nd

PUNT RETURNS—Edwards, 18 for 131 yards, 7.3 average .....unranked

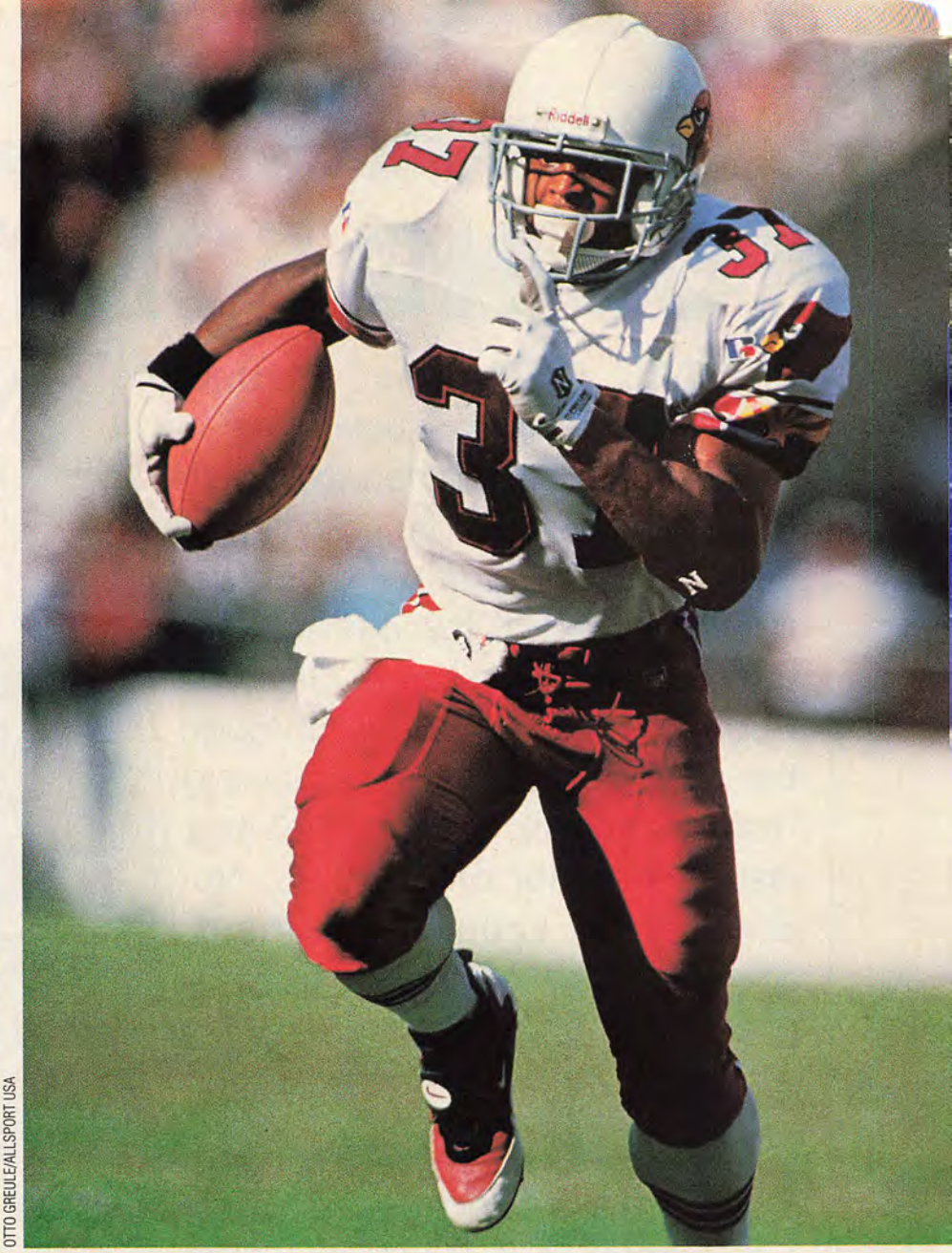
KICKOFF RETURNS—Terry, 37 for 808 yards, 21.8 average 9th

SACKS—Simmons, 11.0 sacks.....T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	ST. LOUIS (N)
	10	CINCINNATI (N)
	17	At San Diego (N)
	23	At Atlanta (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	At Indianapolis	
	8	MIAMI (N)	
	15	At New England	
	22	At New Orleans	
	29	ST. LOUIS	
October	6	Open Date	
	13	At Dallas	20-34
	20	TAMPA BAY	
	27	N.Y. JETS	
November	3	At N.Y. Giants	21-27
	10	At Washington	7-27
	17	N.Y. GIANTS	6-10
	24	PHILADELPHIA	19-31
December	1	At Minnesota	24-30
	8	DALLAS	13-37
	15	WASHINGTON	24-20
	22	At Philadelphia	20-21



OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT USA

If all fullback Larry Centers did was catch, it would be enough. But he also runs, blocks, provides inspiration with his all-out playing style, and is a fan favorite.

Attention to Offense

That Tobin is paying any attention at all to offense is a novel approach compared to Ryan's habit of sticking half the team in a closet only to be opened in case of emergency. Ryan figured his defense was good enough to stop offenses and score enough points itself to win. So he showed no respect for his own offense, leading to a demise that was in part a self-fulfilling prophecy. The offense went five games without a touchdown for the second year under Ryan's guidance. Krieg deserved a better fate and was rightfully heralded as a tough competitor surviving in an impossible situation.

Caught in the Draft

Tobin showed where the Cards need help by drafting seven offensive players, but not until he had used the third pick of the first round to satisfy his own desire for a pass rusher, Simeon Rice of Illinois.

Rebuilding self-esteem may be a greater task for Tobin than rebuilding his roster. The Cardinals do have more good players than your average 4-12 team. Ryan had four Pro Bowlers—defensive tackle Eric Swann, cornerback Aeneas Williams, fullback Larry Centers, and punter Jeff Feagles—one for every victory.

So Tobin believes he inherited a far from hopeless situation. "I think the nucleus of this team is such that we can put together an excellent football team, hopefully in a very, very short period of time," he said.

Passing Grade for Boomer

That's great news for Esiason, whose role

as quarterback of the 3-13 Jets last year was vindicated when the Jets spent the 1st and 31st picks in the draft on wide receivers and signed free agent Jeff Graham of the Bears to boot. When a quarterback has nowhere to throw, it is difficult to label him washed up.

Esiason finished lower than Krieg in passing efficiency last season, but he didn't have Krieg's 21 interceptions and 16 fumbles, as the Cards led the league with 43 turnovers. New Arizona offensive coordinator Jim Fassel watched tape from last season and talked to Cincinnati offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet, Esiason's former head coach with the Jets, before the Cards signed him.

"I wasn't expecting to see much," Fassel said. "I thought, 'Well, he's probably done, over the hill.' But when I watched him play and rated him individually, I ended up with a very good grade."

The Cardinals also signed former Giants backup Kent Graham from Detroit's roster to provide some competition for Esiason. And second-year prospect Stoney Case has possibilities for the future.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
46	Alexander, Brent	S	5-10	184	26	Tennessee St.
82	Anderson, Stevie	WR	6-5	215	27	Grambling
63	Bankston, Michael	DE	6-3	280	27	Sam Houston St.
25	Brooks, Carlos	CB	6-0	200	26	Bowling Green
78	Brown, Chadrick	DE	6-7	265	25	Mississippi
21	Brown, Lance	CB	6-0	200	25	Indiana
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	275	34	Florida
15	Case, Stoney	QB	6-2	206	24	New Mexico
37	Centers, Larry	RB	5-11	215	29	Stephen F. Austin
	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	28	UCLA
5	Davis, Greg	K	6-0	205	31	The Citadel
62	Devlin, Mike	C	6-2	300	27	Iowa
84	Dowdell, Marcus	WR	5-10	179	27	Tennessee St.
76	Drake, Jerry	T	6-4	292	27	Hastings College
93	Dunbar, Karl	DT	6-4	275	30	LSU
65	Dye, Ernest	G	6-6	325	25	South Carolina
83	Edwards, Anthony	WR	5-10	190	31	N Mex Highlands
92	England, Eric	DE	6-2	283	26	Texas A&M
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-5	224	35	Maryland
86	Fann, Chad	TE	6-3	250	27	Florida A&M
10	Feagles, Jeff	P	6-1	205	31	Miami
89	Gaines, Wendall	TE	6-4	293	25	Oklahoma St.
14	Graham, Kent	QB	6-5	236	28	Ohio State
66	Gray, Cecil	T	6-4	305	29	North Carolina
33	Gray, Oscar	RB	6-1	265	24	Arkansas
23	Hearst, Garrison	RB	5-11	215	26	Georgia
58	Hill, Eric	LB	6-2	255	30	LSU
34	Hoage, Terry	S	6-2	203	35	Georgia
56	Irving, Terry	LB	6-0	224	25	McNeese St.
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6-2	250	33	Florida State
32	Johnson, LeShon	RB	5-11	195	26	N. Illinois
26	Jones, Tony	S	6-4	200	25	Syracuse
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	235	32	Texas-El Paso
52	Leasy, Wesley	LB	6-2	234	25	Mississippi St.
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	288	34	UCLA
97	Maumalanga, Chris	DT	6-2	292	25	Kansas
87	McBride, Oscar	TE	6-5	266	24	Notre Dame
90	McCants, Keith	DE	6-3	265	29	Alabama
50	Merritt, David	LB	6-1	237	25	N. C. State
95	Miller, Jamir	LB	6-4	242	23	UCLA
72	Moore, Brandon	T	6-7	295	27	Duke
85	Moore, Rob	WR	6-3	205	28	Syracuse
27	Paul, Tito	CB	6-0	195	25	Ohio State
60	Redmon, Anthony	G	6-4	308	26	Auburn
81	Sanders, Frank	WR	6-1	202	24	Auburn
70	Scott, Lance	C	6-3	285	25	Utah
74	Selby, Rob	G	6-3	286	29	Auburn
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	280	32	West. Carolina
98	Swann, Eric	DT	6-5	295	26	Wake Tech
31	Terry, Ryan	RB	5-11	203	25	Iowa
71	Tharpe, Larry	T	6-4	299	26	Tennessee St.
20	Waters, Andre	S	5-11	200	35	Cheyney
35	Williams, Aeneas	CB	5-10	190	29	Southern
94	Wilson, Bernard	DT	6-2	295	26	Tennessee St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Rice, Simeon	DE	6-4	257	Illinois
2	McElroy, Leeland	RB	5-8	198	Texas A&M
3	McWilliams, Johnny	TE	6-4	260	USC
4	Graham, Aaron	C	6-3	284	Nebraska
5	Dexter, James	OT	6-6	290	South Carolina
5	Stamps, Harry	OT	6-3	300	Oklahoma
5	McGee, Dell	CB	5-8	181	Auburn
6	Foley, Mike	DE	6-3	280	New Hampshire
7	Hayes, Jarius	TE	6-2	255	N. Alabama
7	Brooks, Ethan	OT	6-6	275	Williams

Welcome Receptions

With Rob Moore and rookie find Frank Sanders as the starting wide receivers, the quarterbacks have solid targets. Ex-Jet Moore, Esiason's favorite target in 1994, led Cardinal wideouts with 63 catches. Sanders had 52, including 15 of the team's 36 plays of 25 yards or more. His 17-yard average was among the NFL leaders. Anthony Edwards showed promise as a third receiver and Stevie Anderson is a 6-5 target with potential. Chuck Levy's future is uncertain following a year on suspension.

Tight end was such a trouble spot that Ryan was using a defensive tackle, Wendall Gaines, until turning to Oscar McBride, the only tight end on the roster when Tobin arrived. When USC's Johnny McWilliams fell to them on the third round of the draft, the Cards were ecstatic. The 260-pounder is a former quarterback who can run and will have a chance to start right away.

Backfield in Motion

Garrison Hearst rushed for 1,070 yards, but his 3.8-yard average and only one touchdown were indications that his knee injury as a rookie took its toll. So Tobin was happy when breakaway threat Leeland McElroy of Texas A&M lasted until early in the second round. LeShon Johnson, a late-season pickup from Green Bay a year ago, also provides speed.

The Cardinals' best offensive player is fullback Centers, who led the team with 101 receptions, breaking the league record for running backs. If all he did was catch, it would be enough, but Centers also runs, blocks, provides inspiration with his all-out playing style, and is a fan favorite.

Stabilizing the Line

Tobin began his tenure not by hiring quarterbacks, but by signing left tackle Lomas Brown from Detroit to stabilize a very shaky line. If Brown could only play both tackle spots at once, the outlook would be brighter. Tackles Ernest Dye and Joe Wolf both went down with Achilles' heel injuries, signaling the beginning of the end for Ryan. Left guard Duval Love was the only 16-game starter on the line and center Ed Cunningham signed with Chicago after sharing time with Jamie Dukes. Mike Devlin was signed from Buffalo to play center. Anthony Redmon, Dye, and Larry Tharpe are possibilities at right guard and will compete with rookies Aaron Graham, James Dexter, Harry Stamps, and Ethan Brooks for backup work.

Swann's Way

The Swann situation bears watching as Tobin tries to assemble a defensive front. Given permission to seek a trade after being tagged with the franchise designation, Swann discovered his market value was greater than the Cardinals are required to pay him under the rules. He skipped the first mini-camp, but when the Cardinals turned down trade offers from Denver and Tampa, Swann appeared stuck in Arizona.

While the selection of Rice hedges against losses in the defensive line, Rice doesn't play the same position as Swann and can't be expected to make a similar impact as a rookie. With Michael Bankston, Clyde Simmons, and Bernard Wilson, the Cards have decent talent, but Swann is the key to everything, including the first-year impressions of Rice and Tobin.

Best in the Business

Eric Hill has the credentials if not the recognition as the best middle linebacker in football. Seth Joyner may be slowing down at outside linebacker, but he was deemed good enough to fill in as a strong safety for the last four games last year. Jamir Miller has been a disappointment who will be challenged by Terry Irving in defensive coordinator Dave McGinnis's scheme. Garth Jax is a good backup.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

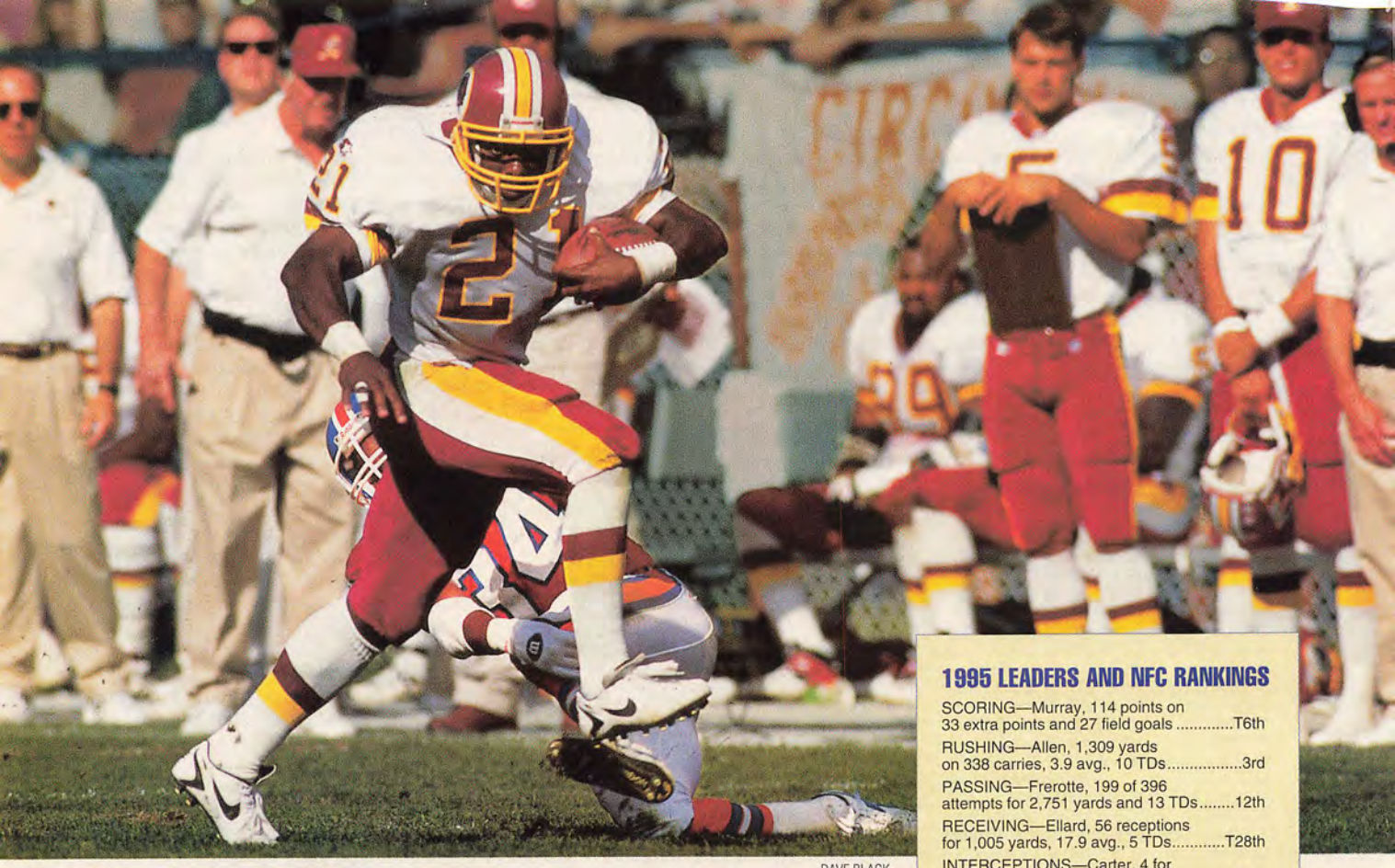
Vince Tobin, Head Coach
Jim Fassel, Offensive Coordinator
Dave McGinnis, Defensive Coordinator
Geep Chryst, Tight Ends/Quality Control
Carl Mauck, Offensive Line
Jim Skipper, Running Backs
Vic Rapp, Wide Receivers
Joe Greene, Defensive Line
Larry Marmie, Defensive Backs
Glen Pires, Linebackers
Alan Everest, Special Teams
Bob Rogucki, Strength & Conditioning

Secondary Concerns

Williams finished fourth in Cardinal scoring with three touchdowns, pretty good for a cornerback. The Cards are desperate for help on the other side, where four players started in '95, including rookie Lance Brown. The addition of Buffalo safety Matt Darby to replace the departed Lorenzo Lynch adds to the wide-open confusion in the secondary, where Brent Alexander and Tito Paul were among last year's regulars.

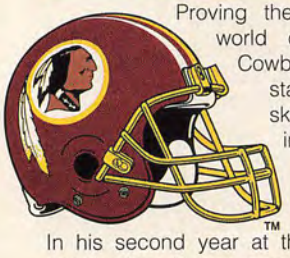
Kicking Game

Feagles and place-kicker Greg Davis provide the key ingredients for an excellent kicking game and McElroy will help Edwards and Ryan Terry with the returns.



DAVE BLACK

Washington Redskins



Proving they can beat the world champion Dallas Cowboys is a healthy start for the Redskins, the only team in the league with double-digit losing seasons the last three years. In his second year at the helm in 1995, coach Norv Turner beat his former team both times, a signal the Redskins have bottomed out. As a reminder of glory days, the coach who took them to the top, Joe Gibbs, was a recent inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Feeling the Pressure

Back to their time-tested tricks of wheeling and dealing draft picks for players, the Redskins gave up the sixth spot in last spring's grab bag to land defensive tackle Sean Gilbert from St. Louis. Whether he is able to make a big difference depends largely on the performance of their 1994 No. 1 pick, quarterback Heath Shuler, who must beat back the challenge of Gus Frerotte for the third year in a row. Frerotte arrived in the seventh round of the same draft that produced Shuler, so the Redskins aren't particular where their players come from, and don't seem embarrassed when top picks struggle. Already gone from the roster are 1991 first pick Bobby Wilson and '92 No. 1 Desmond Howard.

Alas, rebuilding never is a pleasant task, especially with owner Jack Kent Cooke constantly predicting winning seasons to push luxury suite sales for his new Maryland stadium. Like most folks, Cooke figures if the Redskins can beat the best team in the world, they must be able to beat everybody else, logic that doesn't make Turner's job any easier.

The Redskins got more than they bargained for with Terry Allen, who displayed the toughness between the tackles that is his trademark.

Quarterback Draw

Regardless of shortcomings almost everywhere else, the onus to succeed falls mostly on the quarterback. And Turner doesn't know who that is. Shuler claims it: "The way I look at it, it's my job and Gus has to beat me out." But Turner indicates the race remains open: "I haven't told either guy he's the starter. I want each guy going to camp thinking he's going to be the quarterback. They're each going to take half the work until we decide otherwise."

Because of Shuler's loftier draft status, it would appear Frerotte would have to finish better than a tie in any competition. Shuler was the man before a hand injury knocked him out in December. But Turner might use most of the exhibition season before officially making an announcement.

Little Drop-Off for Receivers

The quarterbacks will be relying on some things new and some things old to make the Redskins go. Michael Westbrook finished an up-and-down rookie season on the upbeat and the big wide receiver should be ready to supplant 35-year-old Henry Ellard as the No. 1 target. Ellard gets better with age and showed little drop-off last year with his second 1,000-

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Murray, 114 points on 33 extra points and 27 field goals T6th

RUSHING—Allen, 1,309 yards on 338 carries, 3.9 avg., 10 TDs.....3rd

PASSING—Frerotte, 199 of 396 attempts for 2,751 yards and 13 TDs.....12th

RECEIVING—Ellard, 56 receptions for 1,005 yards, 17.9 avg., 5 TDs.....T28th

INTERCEPTIONS—Carter, 4 for 116 yards, 29.0 average, 1 TD T17th

PUNTING—Turk, 74 punts, 42.4 avg., longest 60 yards 6th

PUNT RETURNS—Mitchell, 25 for 315 yards, 12.6 average 2nd

KICKOFF RETURNS—Mitchell, 55 for 1,408 yards, 25.6 average 1st

SACKS—Harvey, 7.5 sacks T18th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	At Buffalo (N)
	9	At Detroit (N)
	16	CINCINNATI (N)
	23	At New England (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	PHILADELPHIA	7-14
	8	CHICAGO	
	15	At N.Y. Giants	13-20
	22	At St. Louis	35-23
	29	N.Y. JETS (N)	
October	6	Open Date	
	13	At New England	
	20	N.Y. GIANTS	15-24
	27	INDIANAPOLIS	
November	3	At Buffalo	
	10	ARIZONA	27-7
	17	At Philadelphia	34-37
	24	SAN FRANCISCO	
	28	At Dallas	24-17
December	8	At Tampa Bay	6-14
	15	At Arizona	20-24
	22	DALLAS	27-23

yard season since arriving from the Rams. His average per catch of 17.9 yards remained among the best in the league. His experience is an invaluable teaching tool for Westbrook, whose rookie season was slowed by various nagging injuries. He caught only one touchdown pass, but flashed enough potential for the Redskins to feel excited about his future. In only 40 touches of the football as a rookie, Westbrook broke 11 plays for more than 20 yards.

Leslie Shepherd is a big-play third receiver. While in on only half the Redskins' snaps, he exploded five times for more than 40 yards. Tydus Winans and Olanda Truitt are experienced reserves now. The Redskins got very little in the way of receiving production from tight ends Scott Galbraith and Jamie Asher, but they expect more this year.

Capital Gains

At running back, the Redskins got more than they bargained for with ex-Viking Terry Allen, the free-agent steal of the year. For only $450,000, Allen gained 1,309 yards and scored 10 touchdowns, displaying the toughness between the tackles that is his trademark.

To complement Allen, the Redskins have one of the league's most versatile players in Brian Mitchell, who runs, catches, and returns. The best in the league as a combination kick and punt returner, he is so valuable in those areas that his contribution as a third-down receiver and change-of-pace back are often overlooked.

Fourth-round draft choice Stephen Davis of Auburn is an interesting prospect who is

REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
21	Allen, Terry	RB	5-10	207	29	Clemson
84	Asher, Jamie	TE	6-3	243	24	Louisville
72	Bandison, Romeo	DT	6-5	290	26	Oregon
87	Bell, Coleman	TE	6-2	232	27	Miami
36	Bell, William	RB	5-11	203	25	Georgia Tech
93	Boutte, Marc	DT	6-4	296	27	LSU
40	Brooks, Reggie	RB	5-8	211	26	Notre Dame
50	Brownlow, Darrick	LB	6-0	260	28	Illinois
25	Carter, Tom	CB	6-0	181	24	Notre Dame
93	Collier, Ervin	DT	6-3	287	26	Florida A&M
90	Crews, Terry	DE	6-2	245	28	West.. Michigan
72	Dahl, Bob	G	6-5	310	28	Notre Dame
85	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	185	35	Fresno State
73	Flores, Mike	DE	6-3	256	27	Louisville
56	Foxx, Dion	LB	6-3	250	26	James Madison
12	Frerotte, Gus	QB	6-2	221	25	Tulsa
95	Gaines, William	DT	6-5	294	26	Florida
89	Galbraith, Scott	TE	6-2	255	23	USC
63	Gesek, John	G	6-5	282	34	Sacramento St.
90	Gilbert, Sean	DE	6-4	315	27	Pittsburgh
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-9	182	37	Texas A&I
10	Green, Trent	QB	6-3	212	26	Indiana
43	Harris, Rudy	RB	6-2	252	26	Clemson
57	Harvey, Ken	LB	6-2	245	32	California
0	Houston, Harrison	WR	5-9	180	25	Florida
88	Jenkins, James	TE	6-2	241	29	Rutgers
78	Johnson, Tim	DT	6-3	286	32	Penn State
77	Johnson, Tre	T	6-2	338	25	Temple
22	Jones, Larry	RB	6-0	244	26	Miami
79	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	294	34	Ohio State
71	Lewis, Ron	G	6-3	299	24	Washington St.
20	Logan, Marc	RB	6-0	212	32	Kentucky
64	Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	297	35	BYU
33	McDowell, Anthony	RB	5-11	236	28	Texas Tech
88	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	210	29	Michigan
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB	5-10	221	28	SW Louisiana
38	Morrison, Darryl	S	5-11	200	26	Arizona
2	Murray, Eddie	K	5-11	195	40	Tulane
92	Nottage, Dexter	DE	6-4	290	26	Florida A&M
26	Oliver, Muhammad	CB	5-11	185	28	Oregon
96	Owens, Rich	DE	6-6	263	25	Lehigh
97	Palmer, Sterling	DE	6-5	277	26	Florida State
68	Patton, Joe	T	6-5	288	25	Alabama A&M
53	Patton, Marvcus	LB	6-2	240	30	UCLA
31	Pounds, Darryl	CB	5-10	177	24	Nicholls St.
52	Raymer, Cory	C	6-2	293	24	Wisconsin
80	Reeves, Bryan	WR	5-11	195	26	Nevada
94	Renfro, Leonard	DT	6-2	306	27	Colorado
24	Richard, Stanley	S	6-2	197	29	Texas
86	Shepherd, Leslie	WR	5-11	189	27	Temple
5	Shuler, Heath	QB	6-2	221	25	Tennessee
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	325	33	E. Washington
61	Smith, Vernice	G	6-3	298	31	Florida A&M
99	Stephens, Rod	LB	6-1	237	31	Georgia Tech
27	Taylor, Keith	S	5-11	212	32	Illinois
74	Thure, Brian	T	6-5	300	23	California
80	Truitt, Olanda	WR	6-0	186	26	Mississippi St.
1	Turk, Matt	P	6-5	230	29	Wis.-Whitewater
29	Turner, Scott	CB	5-9	178	25	Illinois
91	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB	6-3	243	29	Michigan St.
65	Wagner, Keith	T	6-4	280	27	Abil. Christian
37	Washington, James	S	6-1	209	32	UCLA
82	Westbrook, Michael	WR	6-3	215	24	Colorado
83	Winans, Tydus	WR	5-11	180	24	Fresno State
98	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	282	31	Pittsburgh

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Johnson, Andre	OT	6-5	299	Penn State
4	Davis, Stephen	RB	6-0	236	Auburn
5	Evans, Leomont	S	6-1	200	Clemson
6	Kinney, Kelvin	DE	6-5	251	Virginia
7	Asher, Jeremy	LB	6-1	230	Oregon
7	Maxwell, DeAndre	WR	6-1	200	San Diego St.

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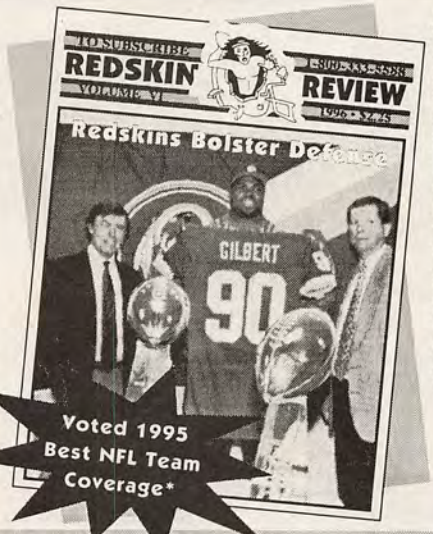

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coming off knee surgery following two 1,000-yard seasons. He has been compared to Herschel Walker in size and running style. Marc Logan is the starting fullback.

Line Changes

Turner and general manager Charlie Casserly were able to trade back into round one to land Penn State offensive tackle Andre Johnson to bolster an area of need. With left guard Ray Brown gone to San Francisco and left tackle Jim Lachey battling age and injury, there is room for youth. Free agent guard Bob Dahl is expected to play opposite Tre Johnson, with John Gesek and last year's injured rookie, Cory Raymer, at center, and Ed Simmons at right tackle. Joe Patton subbed for Lachey last year.

Rushing Defense

If Gilbert can't turn around a run defense that was 29th, the trade was a waste. Gilbert, Marc Boutte, and Tony Woods represent three-fourths of the Rams' 1993 defensive line, which was barely average (18th) against the run. Boutte and Gilbert will be the starting tackles while Rich Owens and Sterling Palmer will be the ends.

"This is the quickest way we can win this year. There clearly was not a better college defensive player that we could have drafted to get better," Casserly said. He compared the move to the 1975 trade of two No. 1 picks for Dave Butz, who spent 14 years in Washington stopping the run.

The depth on the defensive line—Tim Johnson, Mike Flores, Leonard Renfro, Ervin Collier, Romeo Bandison, Dexter Nottage, and William Gaines—appears to offer more emergency help than starting competition.

The Complete Linebacker

The Redskins were better defending the pass (7th), but were so mediocre against the run that a true measure of their ability is skewed. Linebacker Ken Harvey remains the star of the defense even though his sacks fell from 13 1/2 to 7 1/2. He had 16 tackles for losses. A complete player, Harvey is asked to cover as well as rush, and he makes teams aware of his presence. Marvcus Patton led the team in tackles from his outside spot and Rod Stephens holds down middle linebacker. Darrick Brownlow and Matt Vanderbeek are reserves.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Norv Turner, Head Coach
Ron Lynn, Defensive Coordinator
Mike Haluchak, Linebackers
Ray Horton, Secondary Assistant
Bob Karmelowicz, Defensive Line
Tom Hayes, Defensive Backs
Cam Cameron, Quarterbacks
Russ Grimm, Tight Ends
Jim Hanifan, Offensive Line
Bobby Jackson, Running Backs
Terry Robiskie, Wide Receivers
Pete Rodriguez, Special Teams
Dan Riley, Strength Coach
Jason Arapoff, Conditioning Director

Cornerstones

Tom Carter is coming off his best season with four interceptions and growing knowledge of the cornerback position to go with his talent. Darrell Green starts his 14th season at the other corner and can't last forever, can he? He only has the longest starting streak on the team. The depth remains untested with Darryl Pounds and Scott Turner. Ex-Charger Stanley Richard and ex-Cowboy James Washington got better at the safety positions as the season progressed and they became more familiar with each other. Backups Darryl Morrison and Ken Taylor will press for playing time.

Return Investments

Special teams are outstanding, ranking first in the league according to a formula comparing return averages for and against. Mitchell is a threat to score whenever he gets the ball. He finished second in punt returns and first in kickoff returns, the only player ranked so high in both categories. Eddie Murray can still kick at age 40 and Matt Turk's net punting average of 37.7 yards was excellent, especially for a first-year player.

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LC LAMBRECHT

New York Giants

With the worst passing attack in the league, it was crucial for the Giants to keep running back Rodney Hampton.

A 5-11 record is very un-Giant like. How to undo it is the problem of coach Dan Reeves, who is as perplexed as the next guy about why it happened. He had predicted 11-5, which is why coaches usually avoid prognostications like the plague. It also indicates something fundamentally wrong. Overestimating your team is more dangerous than underestimating it.

Searching for Clues

A quick scan of the roster reveals plenty of clues that point to mediocrity. Where are the playmakers? Where are the defensive stalwarts? Where is the quarterback? A 29th-ranked offense and a below-average defense ranked 27th against the run expose holes that one free-agent season or one draft is not liable to patch. Unless the Giants take unexpected leaps in ability from within their own roster, they do not appear to be able to compete in the NFC East.

A closer look at the 5-11 record also exposes how it was rightfully earned. The Giants beat all five opponents that finished under .500 and lost to all 11 opponents that finished .500 or better. In other words, there wasn't much fluky about their season.

Passing Notes

Can Dave Brown fix it? The good-guy quarterback obviously can't do it alone. Phil Simms wasn't asked to do that either. Brown threw a low number of interceptions (10) and a low number of touchdown passes (11) last year, demonstrating that he leans neither toward bad plays nor big plays. And directing the 30th-ranked passing offense in the league is not something you put at the top of the resume.

That the Giants drafted Florida State's Danny Kanell in the fourth round is bound to stir the passions of the Giant faithful not generally known for patience. Despite limitations in arm strength and athletic ability, Kanell is no stranger to big plays, having thrown 49 touchdown passes in his last two seasons in a big-time pro-style offense. At 6-3, 220, Kanell is certainly big enough and his statistics are impressive enough that it will be impossible for the Giants to sneak him onto the roster. If Reeves thinks Tommy Maddox is ready to play, why should he wait on Kanell?

Big-Play Potential

A lack of big-play receivers limits Brown's production, and the 1996 Giants are counting a lot on their 1994 No. 1 draft choice, Thomas Lewis, to break out after catching only 16 passes his first two injury-plagued years. They expect Lewis to replace Mike Sherrard opposite their leading receiver from last year, Chris Calloway, in a dangerously thin unit. Drafting Michigan's big and fast Amani Toomer in the second round could help. Toomer will get every chance to move immediately into the starting lineup, but Giant fans recall only too well that last year's No. 1 draft choice from Michigan, running back Tyrone Wheatley, wasn't nearly ready for the big time. Omar Douglas is a backup with some experience.

H-back Aaron Pierce and tight end Howard Cross give Brown two big, dependable targets, but neither caught a pass for more than 26 yards last year and they can't stretch a defense.

Quiet Superstar

With the worst passing attack in the league, it was crucial for the Giants to keep running back Rodney Hampton, one of the league's quietest superstars. Hampton turned out his fifth 1,000-yard season in a row last fall, relegating the hotshot Wheatley to only 78 carries and a disappointing

NEW YORK GIANTS

Dan Reeves, Head Coach
George Henshaw, Offensive Coordinator
Mike Nolan, Defensive Coordinator
Don Blackmon, Linebackers
Dave Brazil, Defensive Quality Control
James Daniel, Tight Ends
Steve DeBerg, Quarterbacks
Joe DeCamillis, Special Teams
Kerry Goode, Asst. Strenght & Conditioning/ Offensive Quality Control
Earl Leggett, Defensive Line
Pete Mangurian, Offensive Line
Al Miller, Strength & Conditioning
Dick Rehbein, Wide Receivers
George Sefcik, Running Backs
Zaven Yaralian, Defensive Backs

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New York Giants

3.1-yard average. Wheatley's track speed was supposed to offer at least a change of pace for Hampton, a career 3.9 workhorse. But his longest run was only 19 yards and he barely outgained Brown.

Even with Herschel Walker still around to fill in around the cracks, the Giants couldn't afford not to match the $16.45 million offer sheet the 49ers presented Hampton. After discovering he wasn't going to be handed a job, Wheatley will have to compete for carries this year. The Giants are happier with last year's sixth-round pick, fullback Charles Way, a fine lead blocker and receiving threat.

Line Change

The huge offensive line, once the cornerstone of two Super Bowl champions, is undergoing an almost complete change, a sure sign a team is rebuilding. The departure of left tackle Jumbo Elliott to the Jets is a blow. The Giants signed Dallas backup Ron Stone to a stunning $10 million contract because of guard-tackle versatility that somehow never translated into starting time with the Cowboys. Stone will be tried on the left side, either at tackle or guard, where Greg Bishop and Scott Davis are penciled in. Davis is coming off a knee injury. Drafting Roman Oben from Louisville in the third round is a signal the left tackle job is open. Brian Williams is the center with second-year pros Rob Zatechka and Scott Gragg expected to replace veterans Lance Smith and Doug Riesenberg at right guard and tackle, respectively. Adam Schreiber and Derek Allen are reserves.

Herschel Walker
JEFF FISHBEIN

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Daluiso, 88 points on 28 extra points and 20 field goals 15th
RUSHING—Hampton, 1,182 yards on 306 carries, 3.9 avg., 10 TDs.....6th
PASSING—Brown, 254 of 456 attempts for 2,814 yards and 11 TDs 11th
RECEIVING—Calloway, 56 receptions for 796 yards, 14.2 avg., 3 TDs.....T28th
INTERCEPTIONS—Sparks, 5 for 11 yards, 2.2 average.....T10th
Glenn, 5 for 91 yards, 18.2 average, 1 TD.....T10th
PUNTING—Horan, 72 punts, 42.5 avg., longest 60 yards.....5th
PUNT RETURNS—Marshall, 12 for 96 yards, 8.0 average .....unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Walker, 41 for 881 yards, 21.5 average 11th
SACKS—Strahan, 7.5 sacks T18th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	At Jacksonville (N)
	10	BALTIMORE
	17	At N.Y. Jets (N)
	23	CAROLINA (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	BUFFALO (N)	
	8	At Dallas	20-21
	15	WASHINGTON	20-13
	22	At N.Y. Jets	
	29	MINNESOTA	
October	6	Open Date	
	13	PHILADELPHIA	14-17
	20	At Washington	24-15
	27	At Detroit	
November	3	ARIZONA	27-21
	10	At Carolina (N)	
	17	At Arizona	10-6
	24	DALLAS	0-35
December	1	At Philadelphia	19-28
	8	At Miami	
	15	NEW ORLEANS	45-29
	21	NEW ENGLAND	

Filling a Need

The drafting of Oklahoma defensive end Cedric Jones at the fifth spot in the first round fills a need, but probably not the biggest need on the defense. That would be linebacker, where the team tradition of Sam Huff, Brad Van Pelt, Harry Carson, Lawrence Taylor, and Michael Brooks is in limbo.

Jones will challenge right end Michael Strahan and second-year end Jamal Duff for playing time. If Jones can play, Robert Harris could move from left end to tackle. Harris got five sacks at left end, where Jones could use his run-stopping skills to good advantage. Left tackle Keith Hamilton is coming off back surgery. Ray Agnew is the right tackle. Stacey Dillard, Chad Bratzke, and Coleman Rudolph are backups, although Rudolph might be asked to switch to linebacker.

Unsettled Linebacking

Losing Brooks to Detroit and failing to sign ex-Lion Chris Spielman in return left the Giants with Corey Widmer in the middle. He has started five games in four seasons. At strongside linebacker is Corey Miller, who was benched for six games last year. On the weakside replacing Mike Croel is Jessie Armstead, who is more effective as a spot player in passing situations. The backups are Ben Talley and Marcus Buckley and sixth-round draft choices Doug Colman of Nebraska and Scott Gaylon of Tennessee. Brooks led the Giants in tackles each of the last two years, but he was moved from the weakside to the middle last season and was not comfortable.

Strength in the Secondary

The secondary is the strength of the defense. The Giants locked up outstanding cornerback Phillippi Sparks with a $9.6 million contract. He tied free safety Vencie Glenn for the team lead with five intercep-

tions. Opposite Sparks is fast, athletic Thomas Randolph, who will be pushed by Jason Sehorn. The strong safety is Jesse Campbell, who could be challenged by Rodney Young. Tito Wooten and Willie Beamon add depth.

Kicking Game

Brad Daluiso made only four of 11 field goal attempts beyond 40 yards, not good for a long-distance specialist. Mike Horan is among the better NFC punters. The Giants need to retool their return game because the 34-year-old Walker is the best they have.

NEW YORK GIANTS ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
93	Agnew, Ray	DE	6-3	285	29	N. C. State
69	Allen, Derek	G	6-4	290	26	Illinois
98	Armstead, Jesse	LB	6-1	232	26	Miami
21	Beamon, Willie	CB	5-11	178	27	Northern Iowa
78	Bishop, Greg	T	6-5	296	26	Pacific
77	Bratzke, Chad	DE	6-4	270	25	Eastern Kentucky
17	Brown, Dave	QB	6-5	224	27	Duke
55	Buckley, Marcus	LB	6-3	240	26	Texas A&M
80	Calloway, Chris	WR	5-10	188	29	Michigan
37	Campbell, Jesse	S	6-1	215	28	N. C. State
51	Croel, Mike	LB	6-3	240	28	Nebraska
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	260	29	Alabama
3	Daluiso, Brad	K	6-2	215	29	UCLA
71	Dillard, Stacey	DT	6-5	290	28	Oklahoma
82	Douglas, Omar	WR	5-10	180	25	Minnesota
96	Duff, Jamal	DE	6-7	259	25	San Diego St.
20	Elias, Keith	RB	5-9	200	25	Princeton
25	Glenn, Vencie	S	6-0	189	32	Indiana State
74	Gragg, Scott	T	6-8	316	25	Montana
75	Hamilton, Keith	DE	6-6	290	26	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5-11	230	28	Georgia
89	Harrell, Gary	WR	5-7	170	25	Howard
97	Harris, Robert	DE	6-4	290	28	Southern
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	188	38	Long Beach St.
85	Kozlowski, Brian	TE	6-3	247	26	Connecticut
81	Lewis, Thomas	WR	6-1	195	25	Indiana
12	Maddox, Tommy	QB	6-4	205	25	UCLA
86	Marshall, Arthur	WR	5-11	178	28	Georgia
57	Miller, Corey	LB	6-2	247	28	South Carolina
84	Pierce, Aaron	TE	6-5	245	27	Washington
23	Randolph, Thomas	CB	5-9	176	26	Kansas State
66	Reynolds, Jerry	T	6-6	315	27	UNLV
72	Riesenberg, Doug	T	6-5	280	31	California
91	Rudolph, Coleman	DE	6-4	270	26	Georgia Tech
67	Schreiber, Adam	C	6-4	290	35	Texas
31	Sehorn, Jason	CB	6-2	217	26	USC
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	34	UCLA
61	Smith, Lance	G	6-3	290	34	LSU
22	Sparks, Phillippi	CB	5-11	190	28	Arizona State
65	Stone, Ron	G	6-5	309	25	Boston College
92	Strahan, Michael	DE	6-4	270	25	Texas Southern
54	Talley, Ben	LB	6-3	248	24	Tennessee
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	225	35	Georgia
30	Way, Charles	RB	6-0	236	24	Virginia
28	Wheatley, Tyrone	RB	6-0	227	25	Michigan
8	White, Stan	QB	6-2	214	25	Auburn
90	Widmer, Corey	LB	6-3	250	28	Montana St.
59	Williams, Brian	C	6-5	300	31	Minnesota
29	Wooten, Tito	S	6-0	188	25	NE Louisiana
79	Yeaman, Todd	DT	6-5	280	26	NE Oklahoma
47	Young, Rodney	S	6-1	206	24	LSU
73	Zatechka, Rob	G	6-4	307	25	Nebraska

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Jones, Cedric	DE	6-3	274	Oklahoma
2	Toomer, Amani	WR	6-3	194	Michigan
3	Oben, Roman	OT	6-4	280	Louisville
4	Kanell, Danny	QB	6-4	216	Florida State
6	Colman, Doug	LB	6-0	245	Nebraska
6	Galyon, Scott	LB	6-1	235	Tennessee
7	Hamilton, Conrad	S	5-10	182	E. New Mexico

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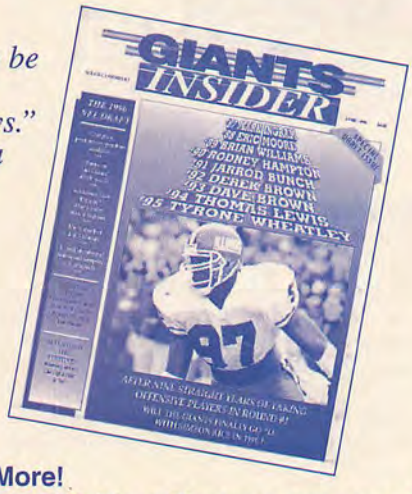

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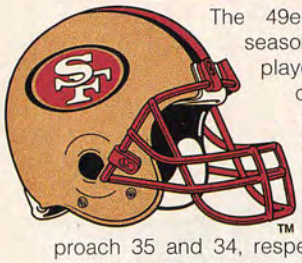
San Francisco 49ers



The 49ers finished last season with a dozen players over the age of 30. But two of them are named Steve Young and Jerry Rice, who still can be trusted as they approach 35 and 34, respectively. So while rebuilding the mature 1994 world champions might be somewhat premature, there are signs of extensive remodeling.

Renovation Projects

Of concern is the leftover paint and plaster being used for the job. To rush the passer, the 49ers brought in Atlanta's Chris Doleman, five days younger than Young. To run the football, they hired Johnny Johnson off the street after failing to land Rodney Hampton from the Giants. Out of football as a free agent last season after two years with the Jets, the 28-year-old Johnson is expected to occupy the void the Niners never filled following the defection last year of Ricky Watters. To patch an offensive line that sent 37-year-old Bart Oates into retirement, they signed 33-year-old Ray Brown from Washington.

Clearly, these are not the moves of a team engaged in long-range planning. Few teams in NFL history have been able to reload as fast and effectively as the 49ers, who still are not willing to concede their Team of the '80s crown to the upstart Dallas Cowboys, the Team of the '90s.

Youth Corps

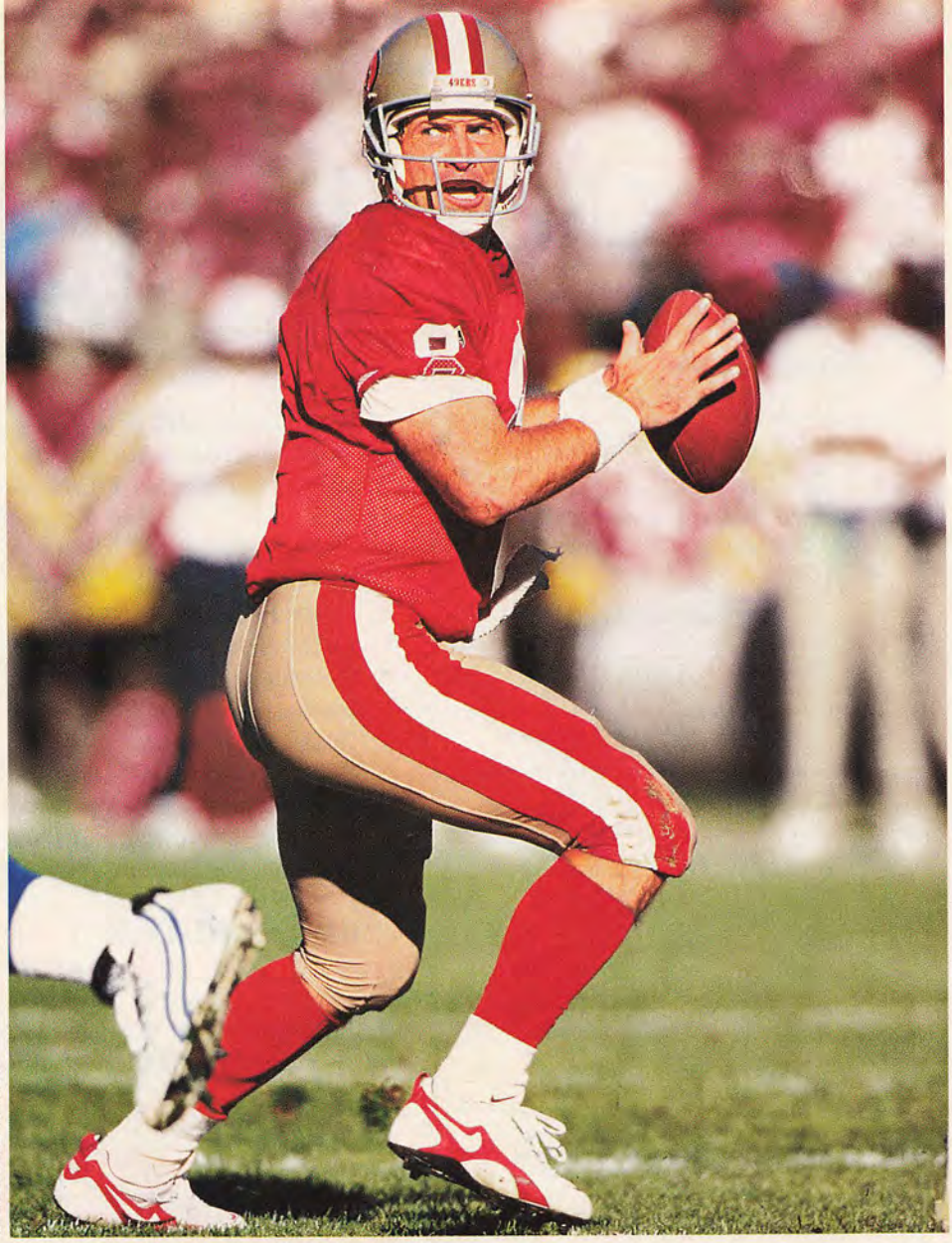
To that end, the 49ers mortgaged this year's first round in the draft last year when they traded up to get receiver J.J. Stokes. If he is not the next Jerry Rice, he is at the moment the next John Taylor and a reminder to 49er fans that there is indeed youth on this team.

In their worldwide search to infuse new talent, the 49ers selected two Nigerian natives in the draft, USC defensive end Isreal Ifeanyi and Cal wide receiver Iheanyi Uwaezuoke, players guaranteed to at least make the preseason interesting for play-by-play announcers.

If third-year fullback William Floyd can heal from devastating knee surgery that cost him most of last season—a big if—the 49ers' quest to return to glory will be considerably enhanced.

Catching On

That quest begins, of course, with Young and Rice, still the greatest pitch-and-catch combination in the game. Young completed 67 percent of his passes for 3,200 yards and 20 touchdowns, but his season was interrupted for five weeks by shoulder problems that required surgery. Until he proves otherwise, Young's pinpoint accuracy, timing, and rhythm will be questioned as his October birthday approaches.



CHARLES M. BERNHARDT

The 49ers' quest for glory begins with Steve Young and Jerry Rice, still the greatest pitch-and-catch combination in the game.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Rice, 104 points on 17 touchdowns and 1 two-point conversion.....10th

RUSHING—Loville, 723 yards on 218 carries, 3.3 avg., 10 TDs.....13th

PASSING—Young, 299 of 447 attempts for 3,200 yards and 20 TDs...4th

RECEIVING—Rice, 122 receptions for 1,848 yards, 15.1 avg., 15 TDs.....T2nd

INTERCEPTIONS—Hanks, 5 for 31 yards, 6.2 average.....T10th

Drakeford, 5 for 54 yards, 10.8 average T10th

PUNTING—Thompson, 57 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 65 yards.....14th

PUNT RETURNS—Carter, 9 for 164 yards, 18.2 average .....unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Carter, 23 for 522 yards, 22.7 average 6th

SACKS—Jackson, 9.5 sacks T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	DENVER
	10	SAN DIEGO (N)
	18	At Jacksonville (N)
	23	At Seattle (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	NEW ORLEANS	7-11
	8	ST. LOUIS	41-13
	15	Open Date	
	22	At Carolina	31-10
	29	ATLANTA	41-10
October	6	At St. Louis	44-10
	14	At Green Bay (N)	
	20	CINCINNATI	
	27	At Houston	
November	3	At New Orleans (N)	24-22
	10	DALLAS	38-20
	17	BALTIMORE	
	24	At Washington	
December	2	At Atlanta (N)	27-28
	8	CAROLINA	7-13
	15	At Pittsburgh	
	23	DETROIT (N)	24-27

Despite Young's absence and the necessity of throwing the untested Elvis Grbac into the fire, Rice is coming off a typically sensational season in which he: became the NFL's all-time leader for receptions (942) and yards (15,123); set an NFL single-season record with 1,848 yards; caught a team-record 122 passes, the second-most in NFL history; became the first NFL player to post three seasons of 100-or-more catches; and tied an NFL record with his 10th consecutive season of 50-plus catches.

Returning Home

No wonder Bill Walsh came back. In a surprise move, the Hall of Fame former coach of the 49ers was invited back as an administrative assistant for offense. Head coach George Seifert approved the move after losing offensive coordinators Mike Shanahan and Mike Holmgren in recent years. Although his duties under coordinator Marc Trestman are not clearly defined, Walsh agrees he has no decision-making role. If it is strictly an advisory role, count on Walsh to suggest getting the ball to Rice.

Johnson gained a five-year career high of 931 yards in 1994, so he had not shown signs of being washed up. He also is a good receiver, essential in the 49er offense, and will be playing at home, having grown up in Santa Cruz and played college ball at San Jose State. The 49ers still have last year's leading rusher, Derek

49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
92	Barker, Roy	DE	6-4	285	28	North Carolina
72	Barnett, Oliver	DE	6-3	285	31	Kentucky
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	280	33	North Carolina
78	Brandon, Michael	DE	6-4	290	28	Florida
11	Brohm, Jeff	QB	6-1	200	26	Louisville
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	285	29	Washington
67	Brown, Ray	G	6-5	312	34	Arkansas St.
90	Bryant, Junior	DE	6-4	275	26	Notre Dame
28	Buckley, Curtis	S	6-0	191	26	East Texas St.
81	Caldwell, Mike	WR	6-2	200	26	California
86	Carolan, Brett	TE	6-3	241	26	Washington St.
35	Carter, Dexter	RB	5-9	175	29	Florida State
69	Chung, Eugene	T	6-5	311	28	Virginia Tech
6	Conklin, Cary	QB	6-4	215	29	Washington
67	Dalman, Chris	G	6-3	285	27	Stanford
89	Davenport, Charles	WR	6-4	212	28	N. C. State
63	Deese, Derrick	G	6-3	275	27	USC
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S	6-2	184	30	Florida State
56	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	275	35	Pittsburgh
22	Drakeford, Tyronne	CB	5-9	185	26	Virginia Tech
32	Ervins, Ricky	RB	5-7	195	28	USC
92	Flores, Mike	DE	6-3	256	30	Louisville
59	Gordon, Steve	C	6-4	290	28	California
98	Goss, Antonio	LB	6-4	228	30	North Carolina
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB	6-5	231	26	Michigan
43	Hall, Darryl	S	6-2	210	30	Washington
36	Hanks, Merton	S	6-2	185	29	Iowa
77	Hanshaw, Tim	G	6-5	285	27	BYU
31	Israel, Steve	CB	5-11	186	28	Pittsburgh
57	Jackson, Rickey	DE	6-2	245	39	Pittsburgh
39	Johnson, Johnny	RB	6-3	220	29	San Jose St.
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	34	Santa Clara
48	Jorden, Tim	TE	6-3	240	30	Indiana
57	Kirk, Randy	LB	6-2	231	32	San Diego St.
32	Lassic, Derrick	RB	5-10	188	27	Alabama
20	Loville, Derek	RB	5-10	205	28	Oregon
46	McDonald, Tim	S	6-2	215	32	USC
69	Milstead, Rod	G	6-2	290	27	Delaware St.
55	Mitchell, Kevin	LB	6-1	250	26	Syracuse
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	241	30	UCLA
26	O'Neal, Brian	RB	6-0	233	27	Penn State
53	Peterson, Tony	LB	6-0	223	25	Notre Dame
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	247	37	California
75	Pollack, Frank	T	6-5	285	29	Northern Arizona
23	Pope, Marquez	S	5-10	193	26	Fresno State
85	Popson, Ted	TE	6-4	250	30	Portland State
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	34	Miss. Valley St.
61	Sapolu, Jesse	C	6-4	278	36	Hawaii
76	Scrafford, Kirk	T	6-2	255	30	Montana
88	Singleton, Nate	WR	5-11	190	28	Grambling
83	Stokes, J.J.	WR	6-4	217	24	UCLA
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DT	6-2	290	26	Kansas
89	Thomas, Chris	WR	6-1	180	25	Cal Poly-S.L.O.
3	Thompson, Tommy	P	5-9	192	25	Oregon
44	Vardell, Tommy	RB	6-2	230	28	Stanford
14	Wilkins, Jeff	K	6-1	190	25	Youngstown St.
45	Williams, Michael	CB	5-10	185	27	UCLA
24	Willis, Jamal	RB	6-2	218	24	BYU
54	Woodall, Lee	LB	6-0	220	27	West Chester
97	Young, Bryant	DT	6-2	280	25	Notre Dame
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	205	35	BYU

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Ifeanyi, Isreal	DE	6-4	250	USC
3	Owens, Terrell	WR	6-3	208	UT-Chattanooga
4	Price, Daryl	DE	6-4	258	Colorado
5	Uwaezuoke, Iheani	WR	6-0	195	California
6	Pitts, Stephen	RB	5-11	190	Penn State
7	Manuel, Sean	TE	6-2	245	New Mexico St.
7	Manuel, Sam	LB	6-3	235	New Mexico St.

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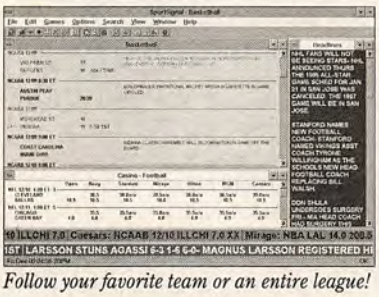

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Loville, who did score 10 touchdowns despite his critics. As fullback insurance, they added Tommy Vardell from the Browns. Like Johnson, the former Stanford star will be coming home.

On the Receiving End

Stokes survived a broken thumb in his rookie year to catch 38 passes and flash the ability to take pressure off Rice the way Taylor used to do. Depth is thin with Nate Singleton and Chris Thomas. Tight end Brent Jones remains a threat, though his 9.9-yard receiving average was his lowest ever as a starter and his age, 33, gives pause. He constantly plays through injuries. Ted Popson is joined by ex-Viking Adrian Cooper as backup help. Cooper will be their best blocker.

Line Change

The signing of Brown from the Redskins enables the 49ers to make several moves. He will play left guard as last year's left guard, Jesse Sapolu, replaces Oates at center. Kirk Scrafford, who started everywhere but center last season, will replace the departed Steve Wallace at left tackle. Harris Barton remains the right tackle. At right guard, there is three-way competition among Derrick Deese, the '94 starter who was hurt last year; Rod Milstead, the '95 starter; and Chris Dalman, who split time with Milstead. Former Patriot and Jaguar Eugene Chung will back up.

Sack Time

Doleman brings nine sacks to a defense that—surprise—was ranked No. 1 in the league a year ago. If Doleman can get nine again, he might be able to replace Rickey Jackson, who led the club with 9 1/2 at age 37. To help prop up the edges of a frayed unit, the 49ers also added end Roy Barker from the Vikings and traded up in the draft to land USC project Ifeanyi in round two. Ifeanyi started playing football in 1992 and shows enormous potential. Inside, tackles Bryant Young and Dana Stubblefield are as good a tandem as there is in the league, and Junior Bryant played well when Young was injured part of last season.

Ken Norton remains the leader at linebacker and he will turn 30 in September. Young Lee Woodall and 36-year-old Gary Plummer give defensive coordinator Pete Carroll a solid unit, but depth is a concern with only Kevin Mitchell and Anthony Peterson.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

George Seifert, Head Coach
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Marc Trestman, Offensive Coordinator
Pete Carroll, Defensive Coordinator
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Matt Cavanaugh, Quarterbacks
Carl Jackson, Running Backs
Larry Kirksey, Receivers
Bobb McKittrick, Offensive Line
Mike Solari, Tight Ends
Dwaine Board, Defensive Line
John Marshall, Linebackers
Johnny Lynn, Defensive Backs
George Stewart, Special Teams
Jerry Attaway, Physical Development
Michael Barnes, Strength Development
Greg Knapp, Offensive Assistant
Bo Pelini, Defensive Assistant

Safeties First

The secondary took a major hit for the second year in a row when cornerback Eric Davis signed with the Panthers, following the exit of Deion Sanders from the '94 champions. That leaves Marquez Pope and Tyronne Drakeford as the starting cornerbacks, and Pope still figures as a better safety than corner. Tim McDonald and Merton Hanks are excellent safeties, who had nine interceptions between them last year, and depth in the middle is better with Dedrick Dodge and Darryl Hall than it is at cornerback.

Special Teams

The 49ers could use help on special teams. Jeff Wilkins was the third place-kicker to get work last season, and appears to be the favorite to stick. Punter Tommy Thompson was inconsistent and specialist Dexter Carter was brought back from the Jets to hold onto the kick-return jobs. Carter's 18-yard average on nine punt returns was impressive.

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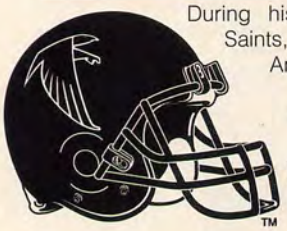
Atlanta Falcons

With 78 catches for over 1,000 yards, Terance Mathis helped make the Falcons' high-powered offense soar.



During his time with the Saints, kicker Morten Andersen made a good case for being the team's most valuable player. For much of his tenure, he was the most recogniable name. When he became a Falcon, he was expected to blend in more with the high-powered run-and-shoot offense triggered by quarterback Jeff George.

The Falcons' MVP

Guess what? Andersen might be Atlanta's most valuable player. Amid all the firepower of a team that features the first group of four 1,000-yard producers in league history, Andersen kicked the Falcons into the playoffs and comes into 1996 as once again the most feared foot in the game. His field goals of 52 and 59 yards against the 49ers in the season finale put the Falcons into the wild-card playoff round. It also gave him a record eight field goals over 50 yards on the season.

Twice, Andersen's kicks beat his former team as the Falcons squeezed out a 9-7 record. In the first meeting, he knocked the Saints off in overtime and in the second, he set an NFL record with three field goals over 50 yards and two from 55. Perhaps most impressive is Andersen's kickoff record. He boomed 27 touchbacks, doubling the total of every other team except the Jets, who had 14. Even with that advantage in field position, the Falcons' defense finished 29th in the league.

High-Powered Run-and-Shoot

If the Falcons are to advance beyond their wild-card role, they will have to prove that their run-and-shoot can win on the road, where they lost five straight games in the final eight weeks, including a playoff defeat in chilly Green Bay. In the static conditions of the Georgia Dome, it is a formidable attack. Not only did quarterback Jeff George help turn Terance Mathis, Eric Metcalf, Craig Heyward, and Bert Emanuel into 1,000-yard players, but the Falcons tied for the NFL lead with fewest turnovers (21), refuting the notion that the run-and-shoot is a careless offense.

Although George has thrived in coach June Jones's attack, the Falcons have not been able to hold onto leads or deliver knockout punches. Veteran backup Bobby Hebert rallied the team in the crucial 49er victory, so George still must show he can lead a team to more than a series of spectacular pass completions. His four 300-yard games and 4,143 yards added to his club records as the best passer in Falcon history, so the .500 record of the team in his two years at the helm should be better.

Metcalf, Mathis, and Emanuel make the offense go. They combined for 256 receptions for 3,267 yards and 22 touchdowns a year ago. All are able to gain significant yardage after the catch, a key to the run-

ATLANTA FALCONS

June Jones, Head Coach
Frank Gansz, Assistant Head Coach/ Special Teams
Milt Jackson, Assistant Head Coach/ Wide Receivers
Rod Rust, Assistant Head Coach/Defense
Joe Haering, Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
Mouse Davis, Quarterbacks
Bob Palcic, Offensive Line
Ollie Wilson, Running Backs
Bill Kollar, Defensive Line
Keith Armstrong, Secondary
Will Lewis, Defensive Assistant
Tim Jorgensen, Strength & Conditioning

and-shoot. Metcalf more than made up for the loss of Andre Rison, catching 104 passes, returning punts, some kickoffs, and serving as a change-of-pace to fullback Heyward. Tyrone Brown looks like a natural successor to J.J. Birden, who was plagued by injury. Roell Preston is another prospect.

Heyward is coming off a Pro Bowl season after averaging 4.6 yards per rush and talking about reducing his former 300-pound frame from 260 to 240. His receiving ability belies his looks as he fills the role in the one-back offense as well as anybody ever has. Despite Heyward's size, however, the Falcons have shown shortcomings in short yardage. Jamal Anderson is Heyward's little-used backup. In the draft, the Falcons added Winston-Salem's Richard Huntley, who led NCAA Division II rushers.

Stability in the Line

Up front, the Falcons showed their appreciation to left tackle Bob Whitfield with a huge off-season contract that ensures he will be the cornerstone for years. They also resigned center Roman Fortin and expect right tackle David Richards and guards Mike Zandofsky and Robbie Tobeck to repeat their performances of last year when the line finally showed signs of jelling. Huge backup Lincoln Kennedy provides depth at tackle and guard.

On the Defensive

Jones and defensive coordinator Joe Haering would love similar stability on the defensive line, a perennial problem area. Gone are last year's leading sackers, Chris Doleman and Jumpy Geathers. Doleman signed with San Francisco and Geathers was waived, leaving the front with undersized left end Chuck Smith as the top returnee. Top draft choice Shannon Brown of Alabama, though just a third-rounder, has a chance to start right away. At 290, he will be their biggest defensive lineman, but he has a history of injury.

Opposite Smith, the Falcons figure Lester Archambeau as a starting end, although he could be pressed by free-agent acquisition Shane Dronett from the Broncos. Ex-Lion Dan Owens also will push for a starting job somewhere along the front, where 265-pound nose tackle Moe Gardner hustles. And the Falcons hope to squeeze another year out of the aging Pierce Holt. John Burrough, Travis Hall, and Mel Agee are other candidates for playing time, as is fifth-round end/linebacker Gary Bandy from Baylor.

Help for the Pass Rush

At linebacker, the Falcons made their most impressive off-season acquisition when Buffalo's Cornelius Bennett signed to replace last year's Buffalo addition, Darryl Talley. Atlanta hopes Bennett has more football left in him than Talley did and that he can contribute more in the pass rush. If he can, his presence could prove an enormous boost. Bennett is looking forward to playing in the city where he has lived for years.

Inside linebacker Jessie Tuggle has led the club in tackles for seven straight seasons but could shift outside to make room for second-year man Lorenzo Styles, who appears ready to start after learning as a rookie. His development would provide flexibility with former Charger David Brandon, Ron George and 40-year-old Clay Matthews.

Secondary Roles

The Falcons released strong safety Kevin Ross and traded safety Roger Harper, then traded for the Raiders' Patrick Bates to bolster a secondary that will continue under pressure until the pass rush up front improves. Bates will play strong safety opposite free safety Devin Bush, who came out of Florida State as a junior last season and has outstanding potential. Backup safeties are Alton Montgomery, Louis Riddick and Brad Edwards. At cornerback, the Falcons need Anthony Phillips to recover completely from the broken leg he suffered in the 10th game. Fourth-rounder Juran Bolden played for Winnipeg in the CFL last year and could vie for a starting job. D.J. Johnson is solid at the other corner, and the position has a veteran backup in Darnell Walker and a prospect in second-year man Ron Davis, who will fight for a roster spot.

Special Teams

Andersen is joined by excellent punter Dan Stryzinski on coach Frank Gansz's special teams. Elbert Shelley is a four-time Pro Bowl cover man. Metcalf averaged a modest 9.8 yards on punt returns but was one of only 10 players to return one for a touchdown last season.

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
68	Agee, Mel	DT	6-5	300	28	Illinois
5	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	36	Michigan St.
32	Anderson, Jamal	RB	5-10	240	25	Utah
92	Archambeau, Lester	DE	6-5	275	30	Stanford
24	Bates, Patrick	S	6-3	220	26	Texas A&M
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	31	Alabama
89	Birden, J.J.	WR	5-9	170	32	Oregon
80	Brown, Tyrone	WR	5-11	164	24	Toledo
91	Burrough, John	DT	6-5	265	25	Wyoming
42	Bush, Devin	S	5-11	205	23	Florida State
72	Cherry, Ronald	T	6-4	300	25	McNeese St.
41	Coleman, Lincoln	RB	6-1	239	27	Baylor
28	Davis, Ron	CB	5-10	190	25	Tennessee
99	Dronett, Shane	DE	6-5	275	26	Texas
27	Edwards, Brad	S	6-2	207	31	South Carolina
87	Emanuel, Bert	WR	5-10	180	26	Rice
78	Fagan, Tommy	DE	6-5	265	26	NW Louisiana
65	Fortin, Roman	C	6-5	295	30	San Diego St.
67	Gardner, Moe	DT	6-2	265	28	Illinois
1	George, Jeff	QB	6-4	215	29	Illinois
50	George, Ron	LB	6-2	235	27	Stanford
98	Hall, Travis	DE	6-5	278	24	BYU
58	Hamilton, Ruffin	LB	6-1	230	26	Tulane
3	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	36	NW Louisiana
34	Heyward, Craig	RB	5-11	260	30	Pittsburgh
95	Holt, Pierce	DT	6-4	275	35	Angelo State
44	Johnson, D.J.	CB	6-0	190	30	Kentucky
80	Johnson, Tyrone	WR	5-11	171	25	Western State
75	Kennedy, Lincoln	T	6-6	325	26	Washington
7	Klein, Perry	QB	6-2	218	26	C.W. Post
88	Le Bel, Harper	TE	6-4	255	33	Colorado St.
86	Lyons, Mitch	TE	6-4	265	27	Michigan St.
81	Mathis, Terance	WR	5-10	180	30	New Mexico
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	245	41	USC
21	Metcalf, Eric	WR	5-10	188	29	Texas
38	Miano, Rich	S	6-1	200	34	Hawaii
55	Miller, Nate	G	6-3	310	25	LSU
88	Mitchell, Derrell	WR	5-9	190	25	Texas Tech
22	Montgomery, Alton	S	6-0	209	29	Houston
13	Nagle, Browning	QB	6-3	225	29	Louisville
90	Owens, Dan	NT	6-3	280	30	USC
64	Pahukoa, Jeff	G	6-2	298	28	Washington
85	Preston, Roell	WR	5-10	187	25	Mississippi
62	Richards, Dave	T	6-5	315	31	UCLA
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	273	39	N. C. State
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	34	SW Texas St.
37	Shelley, Elbert	CB	5-11	190	32	Arkansas St.
90	Smith, Chuck	DE	6-2	257	27	Tennessee
4	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6-2	200	32	Indiana
59	Styles, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	244	23	Ohio State
24	Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	185	35	Southern Illinois
52	Tippins, Ken	LB	6-1	235	30	Middle Tenn. St.
61	Tobeck, Robbie	C	6-4	292	27	Washington St.
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5-11	230	32	Valdosta St.
35	Vinson, Tony	RB	6-1	229	26	Towson State
45	Walker, Darnell	CB	5-8	168	27	Oklahoma
70	Whitfield, Bob	T	6-5	300	25	Stanford
69	Williams, Gene	G	6-2	305	28	Iowa State
72	Zandofsky, Mike	G	6-2	305	31	Washington

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
3	Brown, Shannon	DT	6-4	270	Alabama
4	Huntley, Richard	RB	5-11	215	Winston-Salem
4	Bolden, Juran	CB	6-1	202	Miss. Delta
5	Bandy, Gary	LB	6-4	237	Baylor

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen, 122 points on 29 extra points and 31 field goals T4th

RUSHING—Heyward, 1,083 yards on 236 carries, 4.6 avg., 6 TDs 7th

PASSING—George, 336 of 557 attempts for 4,143 yards and 24 TDs.....7th

RECEIVING—Metcalf, 104 receptions for 1,189 yards, 11.4 avg., 8 TDs.....7th

INTERCEPTIONS—Tuggle, 3 for 84 yards, 28.0 average, 1 TD T22nd

Taylor, 3 for 31 yards, 10.3 average.....T22nd

Ross, 3 for 70 yards, 23.3 average.....T22nd

PUNTING—Stryzinski, 67 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 64 yards.....9th

PUNT RETURNS—Metcalf, 39 for 383 yards, 9.8 average 6th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Anderson, 24 for 541 yards, 22.5 average 8th

SACKS—Doleman, 9.0 sacks T13th

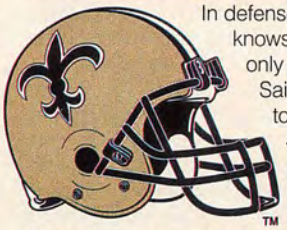
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At Seattle (N)
	10	At Tampa Bay (N)
	15	OAKLAND (N)
	23	ARIZONA (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Carolina	17-21
	8	MINNESOTA	
	15	Open Date	
	22	PHILADELPHIA (N)	
	29	At San Francisco	10-41
October	6	At Detroit	34-22
	13	HOUSTON	
	20	At Dallas	13-28
	27	PITTSBURGH	
November	3	CAROLINA	23-20
	10	At St. Louis	19-21
	17	NEW ORLEANS	19-14
	24	At Cincinnati	
December	2	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	28-27
	8	At New Orleans	27-24
	15	ST. LOUIS	31-6
	22	At Jacksonville	

New Orleans Saints



In defense of Jim Mora, he knows defense is the only chance for the Saints to win. Trying to outscore the 49ers and Falcons is more difficult than trying to stop them. But losing the team's two leading receivers to free agency, wideout Quinn Early and tight end Wesley Walls, was not exactly the way the Saints wanted to make the point.

Arrivals and Departures

The Saints made significant inroads on defense by signing free agent linemen Fred Stokes and Darren Mickell and cornerback Mark McMillian and by drafting defensive backs Alex Molden of Oregon and Je'Rod Cherry of Cal with their first two picks. Yet losing players such as Early and Walls seems to have a way of haunting the Saints. Last year, they let place-kicker Morten Andersen get away to Atlanta and linebacker Sam Mills get away to Carolina, and both players helped their new teams finish ahead of the Saints in the NFC West.

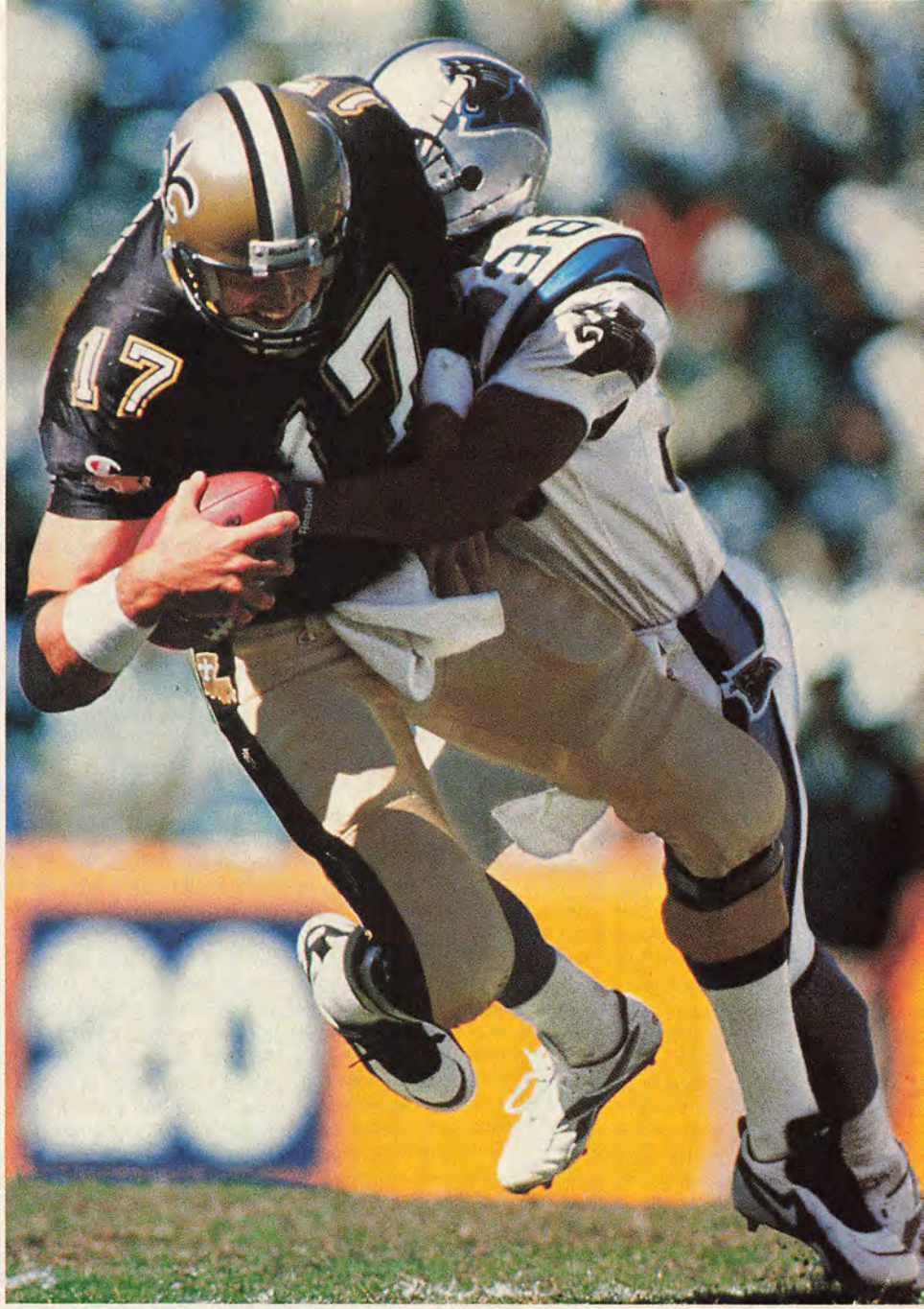
This is not a new phenomenon for the Saints, who have not been able to retain the services of such productive players as Brett Perriman, Mel Gray, Craig Heyward, Bobby Hebert, or Jumpy Geathers in recent years. Pass rushers Pat Swilling and Rickey Jackson also have had productive playing time since leaving New Orleans, although it could be argued they overstayed their welcome.

Risky Business

Losing Early and Walls is risky business, especially when quarterback Jim Everett is jumping through hoops to keep the offense above water with virtually no running game to help him out. As a quarterback used to having Eric Dickerson behind him, this is a difficult assignment. Everett has played beyond expectations in his two years with the Saints, throwing 48 touchdown passes and completing 62 percent. At age 33, he remains one of the game's most durable and productive quarterbacks, one who can hardly be blamed for the back-to-back 7-9 records he has endured. The only backup help remains Tom Hodson and young Doug Nussmeier.

Reception Line

Without Early and Walls, the Saints must improve from within or sign an expensive free agent such as Keith Jackson, whom they were pursuing much the way the Pack-



CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT USA

Jim Everett remains one of the game's most durable and productive quarterbacks, playing beyond expectations with the Saints.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Brien, 92 points on 35 extra points and 19 field goals 14th

RUSHING—Bates, 951 yards on 244 carries, 3.9 avg., 7 TDs.....11th

PASSING—Everett, 345 of 567 attempts for 3,970 yards and 26 TDs.....8th

RECEIVING—Early, 81 receptions for 1,087 yards, 13.4 avg., 8 TDs.....12th

INTERCEPTIONS—Spencer, 4 for 11 yards, 2.8 average.....T17th

PUNTING—Wilmsmeyer, 73 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 53 yards.....13th

PUNT RETURNS—Hughes, 28 for 262 yards, 9.4 average.....7th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Hughes, 66 for 1,617 yards, 24.5 average.....3rd

SACKS—Martin, 13.0 sacks.....T1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	vs. Indianapolis at Canton, OH
August	2	At Detroit (N)
	10	At Kansas City (N)
	17	CHICAGO (N)
	23	MINNESOTA (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At San Francisco	11-7
	8	CAROLINA	34-26
	15	At Cincinnati	
	22	ARIZONA	
	29	At Baltimore	
October	6	JACKSONVILLE	
	13	CHICAGO	
	20	At Carolina	3-20
	27	Open Date	
November	3	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	22-24
	10	HOUSTON	
	17	At Atlanta	14-19
	24	At Tampa Bay	
December	1	ST. LOUIS	19-10
	8	ATLANTA	24-27
	15	At N.Y. Giants	29-45
	21	At St. Louis	13-17

ers pursued him last season, without much luck. Early left for Buffalo after leading the club in receiving for two years but noticing he was third on the pay scale behind speedster Michael Haynes and possession specialist Torrance Small. Last season, Early caught more passes (81) than Haynes and Small combined (79), so it was easy for him to demand more pay for twice the work.

The Saints are hoping second-year man Lee DeRamus is ready to fulfill the potential that got lost when he came out of Wisconsin early following a season marred by a broken leg. To provide depth and hope for a diamond in the rough, the Saints drafted three wide receivers in later rounds, starting with the productive Mercury Hayes of Michigan. How can a receiver miss with a name like that!

Walls may be more difficult to replace than Early. The former 49er, lost behind Brent Jones with 11 catches in five years, is a tribute to the fairness of free agency. In two years in New Orleans, he caught 95 passes and parlayed it into a $3.9 million three-year contract in Carolina. The Saints still have Irv Smith, who wasn't far behind Walls with 45 catches last season, but Walls was more of a deep threat and third-down receiver. Paul Green and Kirk Botkin are backups.

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
21	Allen, Eric	CB	5-10	180	31	Arizona St.
24	Bates, Mario	RB	6-1	217	24	Arizona St.
86	Botkin, Kirk	TE	6-3	245	26	Arkansas
36	Boyd, Malik	CB	5-10	176	26	Southern
10	Brien, Doug	K	5-11	177	26	California
99	Broughton, Willie	NT	6-5	295	32	Miami
20	Brown, Derek	RB	5-9	197	26	Nebraska
45	Byrd, Israel	CB	5-11	184	26	Utah State
51	Childs, Ron	LB	5-11	212	25	Washington St.
39	Covington, John	S	6-0	206	25	Notre Dame
87	DeRamus, Lee	WR	6-0	191	24	Wisconsin
56	Dixon, Ernest	LB	6-1	240	25	South Carolina
72	Dombrowski, Jim	G	6-5	300	33	Virginia
79	Epps, Tory	DT	6-1	280	30	Memphis
17	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	34	Purdue
70	Farkas, Kevin	T	6-9	375	26	Appalachian St.
97	Fields, Jeff	NT	6-3	320	29	Arkansas St.
55	Fields, Mark	LB	6-2	244	24	Washington St.
40	Fuller, James	S	5-11	208	27	Portland St.
91	Goff, Robert	DT	6-3	280	31	Auburn
87	Green, Paul	TE	6-3	253	30	USC
52	Harvey, Richard	LB	6-1	242	30	Tulane
81	Haynes, Michael	WR	6-0	184	31	Northern Arizona
14	Hodson, Tom	QB	6-3	195	30	LSU
33	Hughes, Tyrone	CB	5-9	175	27	Nebraska
96	Jeffries, Dameian	DE	6-4	277	24	Alabama
94	Johnson, Joe	DE	6-4	285	24	Louisville
58	Jones, Brian	LB	6-1	250	29	Texas
72	Jones, Clarence	T	6-6	280	29	Maryland
61	King, Ed	G	6-4	300	27	Auburn
68	Kline, Alan	T	6-5	277	26	Ohio State
43	Legette, Tyrone	CB	5-9	177	27	Nebraska
46	Lumpkin, Sean	S	6-0	206	27	Minnesota
24	Mack, Milton	CB	5-11	195	33	Alcorn State
93	Martin, Wayne	DT	6-5	275	31	Arkansas
44	McCleskey, J.J.	S	5-7	177	27	Tennessee
67	McCollum, Andy	G	6-5	270	27	Toledo
92	McIntosh, Toddrick	DE	6-3	267	25	Florida State
29	McMillian, Mark	CB	5-7	148	27	Alabama
38	McNabb, Dexter	RB	6-1	245	27	Florida
92	Mickell, Darren	DE	6-4	284	26	Florida
22	Neal, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	240	26	Fresno State
36	Ned, Derrick	RB	6-1	220	28	Grambling
30	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	199	31	Oregon
60	Novitsky, Craig	T	6-5	295	26	UCLA
13	Nussmeier, Doug	QB	6-3	211	26	Idaho
35	Pahukoa, Shane	S	6-2	202	26	Washington
59	Porter, Rufus	LB	6-1	230	32	Southern
63	Reese, Darren	G	6-4	285	26	Ohio U.
84	Rhem, Steve	WR	6-2	212	25	Minnesota
77	Roaf, William	T	6-5	300	27	Louisiana Tech
78	Roth, Tom	G	6-5	285	28	Southern Illinois
83	Small, Torrance	WR	6-3	201	26	Alcorn State
82	Smith, Irv	TE	6-3	246	25	Notre Dame
63	Stanley, Buster	NT	6-2	286	27	Michigan
90	Stanley, Israel	DE	6-3	260	27	Arizona State
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	274	33	Ga. Southern
41	Strong, William	CB	5-10	191	25	N. C. State
75	Tucker, Mark	G	6-3	296	29	USC
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	DE	6-4	250	31	West Virginia
62	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C	6-3	284	31	Ohio State
66	Verstegen, Mike	T	6-6	311	25	Wisconsin
63	Willis, Donald	G	6-3	330	23	North Carolina A&T
4	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus	P	6-1	210	29	Louisville
34	Zellars, Ray	RB	5-11	221	24	Notre Dame

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Molden, Alex	CB	5-10	190	Oregon
2	Cherry, Je'Rod	CB	6-0	197	California
3	Smith, Brady	DE	6-5	250	Colorado St.
4	Whittle, Ricky	RB	5-9	195	Oregon
5	Hayes, Mercury	WR	5-10	195	Michigan
5	Ackerman, Tom	OT	6-3	276	E. Washington
5	Guess, Terry	WR	6-0	200	Gardner-Webb
6	Hills, Keno	OT	6-5	300	SW Louisiana
6	Malone, Toderick	WR	5-10	171	Alabama
7	Lusk, Henry	TE	6-1	240	Utah

Ball Control

After finishing 26th and 28th in rushing since Everett arrived, the Saints would love to improve an area that has such a direct effect on playing good defense. The Saints finished last in the NFC and 28th in the league in ball control, forcing the defense to carry more than its share of the load.

Mario Bates is a good running back, whose 951 yards were compiled at a 3.9-yard average, better than Ricky Watters, Edgar Bennett, Garrison Hearst, Errict Rhett, or Rashaan Salaam—five of the 10 NFC backs who gained more yards. If second-year fullback Ray Zellars can shake injuries, Bates is expected to get more chances. Lorenzo Neal is the blocking back and Derek Brown is a spot back. The Saints drafted Oregon's Ricky Whittle in the fourth round.

On the Line

On the offensive line, the Saints put a lot of stock in free-agent pickup Clarence Jones from the Rams to replace the departed Richard Cooper at right tackle. Jones hadn't been able to win a regular job with the Giants or Rams despite impressive physical skills. At left tackle, the Saints boast Willie Roaf; at left guard, they have Pro Bowl candidate Jim Dombrowski, so Everett's backside is safe. Craig Novitsky is in line to replace Jeff Uhlenhake at center, with Andy McCollum replacing Chris Port at right guard. The depth is thin, with Ed King and Mike Verstegen, so late draft choices Tom Ackerman of Eastern Washington and Keno Hills of Southwest Louisiana will get a chance.

A Rush to Improve

The arrival of Stokes and Mickell allow for flexibility on the defensive line, where Mora and general manager Bill Kuharich want to start returning their 22nd-ranked defense to its playoff days. Jim Haslett replaces Monte Kiffin as coordinator.

The Saints want to move left end Joe Johnson to nose tackle next to their best player, Wayne Martin. If Mickell or Stokes can handle left end, mission accomplished. Johnson and Martin should provide a great push inside. Martin had 13 sacks last year, tying Philadelphia's William Fuller for the NFC lead. Mora calls the unsung Martin an absolute joy to watch play. At right end, Renaldo Turnbull is coming off a seven-sack season. Willie Broughton will back up at both tackles and third-round draft choice Brady Smith of Colorado State is expected to contribute some pass rush.

Backing Up

The development of last year's No. 1 draft choice, Mark Fields, is the key to improved linebacker play. Fields was understandably lost as a rookie, but he is expected to make the usual dramatic strides in his second year on the weak side. He has the tools. Third-year man Winfred Tubbs should be able to handle the middle. Rufus Porter is the strongside backer. Gerald Dixon, Brian Jones, Richard Harvey, and Ron Childs are reserves.

Secondary Changes

More changes are expected in the secondary, where Molden and Cherry will see plenty of action in nickel situations and could both vie for starting jobs. The Saints added the 5-7 McMillian to play corner opposite former Philadelphia teammate Eric Allen, but Molden is considered the best cover corner in the draft and will be tough to keep as strictly a nickel player. Losing Jimmy Spencer to Cincinnati cost depth. Cherry could contribute at corner or safety, where Anthony Newman is the strong safety and Vince Buck plays free. The contracts of safety Sean Lumpkin and nickel back Tyrone Legette are uncertain.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Jim Mora, Head Coach
Carl Smith, Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Jim Haslett, Defensive Coordinator
Bruce Arlans, Tight Ends
Dave Atkins, Running Backs
John Matsko, Offensive Line
Steve Walters, Wide Receivers
Bobby April, Special Teams
Jim L. Mora, Defensive Backs
Wayne Nunnely, Defensive Line
Rick Venturi, Linebackers
Russell Paternostro, Strength & Conditioning
Jeff Davidson, Offensive Assistant
John Pagano, Defensive Assistant

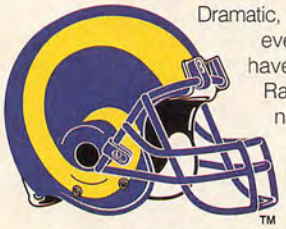
Kicking Game

Tyrone Hughes is a dangerous return man who led the league in kickoff returns (66) and yardage (1,617). Place-kicker Doug Brien caught on from the 49ers to win the impossible job of replacing Andersen. Another ex-49er, Klaus Wilmsmeyer is the punter.

BRIAN BAHR / ALLSPORT USA

St. Louis Rams

Can new quarterback Steve Walsh get the ball deep to Isaac Bruce, who led the NFL with 28 plays for more than 20 yards.



Dramatic, wholesale changes everywhere you look have transformed the Rams into an entirely new team for 1996. It only follows after moving into a new city and then into a new dome. The hope is for a new start, although last year's wasn't bad. At 4-0, they were the talk of the league. It was the 3-9 finish that dictated an overhaul.

Superbold

No team was bolder in free agency, trades, or the draft than the Rams. Led by president John Shaw, director of operations Steve Ortmayer, and coach Rich Brooks, the Rams worked the offseason like there was no tomorrow. From the time they were jilted by hometown product Bryan Cox, the free-agent linebacker from Miami who signed with Chicago before taking a planned trip to St. Louis, the Rams seemed obsessed with wheeling and dealing. At their present rate, soon no one will remember playing in Los Angeles.

Passing Interest

One of their first moves was prompted by the forced retirement of quarterback Chris Miller. After five concussions in 14 months, Miller decided he had banged his head against the wall long enough. The Rams' success mirrored Miller's year. After throwing only three interceptions in the first six games, he threw 12 in the next six and a half. Mark Rypien took over in the end and played well enough to deserve consideration for the job.

After a flurry of trade rumors and a billboard advertising the services of one Randall Cunningham, the Rams settled on the effective and overlooked Steve Walsh from the free-agent pile. Walsh sat on Chicago's bench the entire season. Curiously, he had received no interestas a free agent following his 8-3 record as a starter with the 1994 playoff Bears. His strength is his smart, conservative approach to running whatever offense he is asked to run.

Running Start

Whether Walsh's arm strength is adequate to get the ball deep to Isaac Bruce is questionable, but whoever quarterbacks will have an entirely new supporting cast. It starts with rookie running back Lawrence Phillips, the controversial Nebraska phenom who was the consensus best player in the draft. He slipped to the Rams because he is serving probation after pleading no contest to misdemeanor assault of his former girlfriend. Convinced his future is brighter than his past, the Rams did not hesitate to take the 6-0, 225-pound Phillips, who will be the most scrutinized new player in the league. With 10 draft picks, Brooks took eight offensive players, starting with Phillips, leaving no doubt that last year's collapse was more than Miller's fault.

They were able to plan for the future as well as address immediate needs. In the second round, they made Michigan State's Tony Banks the first quarterback taken in the entire draft. The 6-4, 220-pound Banks is a former pro baseball prospect who played only two years at quarterback and was injured part of last season. He has been compared to Cunningham and the Rams are convinced he is their quarterback of tomorrow.

Wheeling and Dealing

The Rams were able to get Phillips because they traded their 1992 No. 1 pick, defensive tackle Sean Gilbert, to the Redskins. Gilbert was expendable because the Rams signed pass-rushing free agent Leslie O'Neal of San Diego. After taking Phillips, the Rams immediately traded their leading rusher, Jerome Bettis, to the Steelers for a second-round choice they used on

ST. LOUIS RAMS

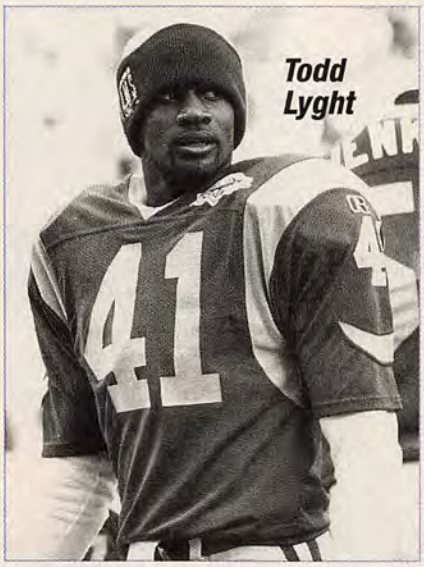
Rich Brooks, Head Coach
Johnny Roland, Asst. Head Coach/ Running Backs
Jack Reilly, Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Willie Shaw, Defensive Coordinator
Nick Alioni, Special Teams
Steve Brown, Cornerbacks
Chris Clausen, Strength & Conditioning
Steve Greatwood, Offensive Line
Mike Martz, Receivers
Don Pollard, Defensive Line
John Ramsdell, Tight Ends
Dick Selcer, Linebackers
George Warhop, Offensive Line
Michael Gray, Defensive Asst./Quality Control

Washington tight end Ernie Conwell. Then they announced Conwell would be a blocking back for Phillips. After that they picked a squatty running back/blocker in Oklahoma's Jerald Moore, further addressing a running game that finished 25th in the league with a cast of castoffs.

They were able to get Moore with an extra pick from Chicago they received when they traded their own No. 1 to slide down the first round and still land LSU receiver Eddie Kennison. If Phillips doesn't make an immediate impact, Kennison will. The Rams had him rated the third-best player in the entire draft. He seems a perfect complement for Bruce, who led the league with 28 plays for more than 20 yards. Kennison will be the third receiver if he doesn't beat out starter Alexander Wright. If nothing else, Kennison will return punts and kickoffs. At tight end, second-year man Lovell Pinkney, a former wide receiver, could push Troy Drayton.

Line Change

The offensive line got a new coach in Steve Greatwood, who will try to find a place for second-year man Zach Wiegert, an old buddy of Phillips from Nebraska



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whose rookie year was hampered by an ankle sprain. He can play guard or tackle, so it depends on how last year's starters—tackles Wayne Gandy and Darryl Ashmore, guards Leo Goeas and Dwayne White, and center Bern Brostek—shake out. Interesting projects are second-year free agents John Kirksey and Corey Swinson, former defensive linemen who tip the scales at 350 and 335, respectively. Keith Loneker, Jesse James, and Chuck Belin are reserves.

Sack Time

O'Neal is the No. 9 all-time sacker and at age 31 is happy to rejoin his former San Diego coach, Rams defensive coordinator Willie Shaw. O'Neal will more than replace Gilbert in the pass rush from right end. He will benefit from playing next to the active D'Marco Farr, the league's second-leading sacker among tackles last year, with 11 1/2. Left end Kevin Carter, last year's No. 1 pick, started every game and registered six sacks. Jimmie Jones is the other tackle, with Brad Ottis, Jay William, and Robert Young as line depth.

The Rams signed Robert Jones from Dallas to replace Shane Conlan at middle linebacker. He will play next to the versatile Roman Phifer, who led the team in tackles and passes defensed and found time for three sacks and three interceptions. Few outside linebackers are better. Carlos Jenkins mans the other outside spot. Dana Howard, Ashley Sheppard, Cedric Figaro and Tom Homko are backups.

Secondary Traits

Change did not escape the secondary, where ex-Patriot Maurice Hurst was signed to replace right cornerback Anthony Parker opposite Todd Lyght. Parker will play nickel back. Safeties Toby Wright and Keith Lyle finished second and third on the team in tackles. Wright's 126 tackles were a team record for a defensive back. Another Nebraska connection, Wright also had six interceptions. Gerald McBurrows, Torin Dorn, Mike Scurlock, Dexter Davis, John Reece, and Claudius Wright will vie for roster spots.

Kicking Game

The Rams are searching for stability at place-kicker. They signed ex-Redskin Chip Lohmiller after Dean Biasucci finished last season. Sean Landeta led the NFC in punting average (44.3) at age 33. Kennison will replace Todd Kinchen in the kick-return department.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bruce, 80 points on 13 touchdowns and 1 two-point conversion T18th

RUSHING—Bettis, 637 yards on 183 carries, 3.5 avg., 3 TDs 14th

PASSING—Rypien, 129 of 217 attempts for 1,448 yards and 9 TDs 9th

RECEIVING—Bruce, 119 receptions for 1,781 yards, 15.0 avg., 13 TDs 4th

INTERCEPTIONS—Wright, 6 for 79 yards, 13.2 average T4th

PUNTING—Landeta, 83 punts, 44.3 avg., longest 63 yards 1st

PUNT RETURNS—Kinchen, 53 for 416 yards, 7.8 average 10th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Thomas, 32 for 752 yards, 23.5 average 4th

SACKS—Farr, 11.5 sacks 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	At Arizona (N)
	9	JACKSONVILLE (N)
	17	At Kansas City (N)
	23	SAN DIEGO (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	CINCINNATI	
	8	At San Francisco	13-41
	15	Open Date	
	22	WASHINGTON	23-35
	29	At Arizona	
October	6	SAN FRANCISCO	10-44
	13	At Carolina	31-10
	20	JACKSONVILLE	
	27	At Baltimore	
November	3	At Pittsburgh	
	10	ATLANTA	21-19
	17	CAROLINA	28-17
	24	GREEN BAY (N)	17-14
December	1	At New Orleans	10-19
	8	At Chicago	34-28
	15	At Atlanta	6-31
	21	NEW ORLEANS	17-13

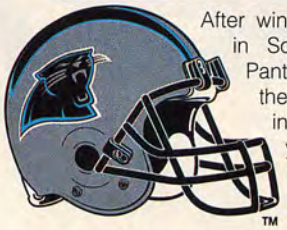
RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
77	Ashmore, Darryl	T	6-7	300	27	Northwestern
20	Bailey, Johnny	RB	5-8	180	30	Texas A&I
16	Barr, Dave	QB	6-3	205	25	California
71	Belin, Chuck	G	6-2	312	26	Wisconsin
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	190	34	West. Carolina
61	Brostek, Bern	C	6-3	300	30	Washington
80	Bruce, Isaac	WR	6-0	178	24	Memphis
93	Carter, Kevin	DE	6-5	275	23	Florida
88	Carter, Pat	TE	6-4	258	30	Florida State
47	Cook, Marv	TE	6-4	241	31	Iowa
29	Davis, Dexter	CB	5-10	185	27	Clemson
55	Davis, Paschall	LB	6-2	225	27	Texas A&I
46	Dorn, Torin	CB	6-0	190	29	North Carolina
84	Drayton, Troy	TE	6-3	255	27	Penn State
75	Farr, D'Marco	DT	6-1	270	26	Washington
53	Figaro, Cedric	LB	6-3	258	30	Notre Dame
70	Gandy, Wayne	T	6-4	289	26	Auburn
79	Goeas, Leo	G	6-4	292	30	Hawaii
86	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	175	34	Florida State
50	Howard, Dana	LB	6-0	238	25	Illinois
37	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5-10	185	29	Southern
69	James, Jesse	G	6-4	318	25	Mississippi St.
51	Jenkins, Carlos	LB	6-3	217	28	Michigan St.
98	Jones, Jimmie	DT	6-4	276	31	Miami
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	237	27	East Carolina
81	Kinchen, Todd	WR	5-11	187	28	LSU
65	Kirksey, Jon	G	6-4	350	27	Sacramento St.
48	Laing, Aaron	TE	6-3	264	25	New Mexico St.
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	210	35	Towson State
2	Lohmiller, Chip	K	6-3	215	30	Minnesota
64	Loneker, Keith	G	6-3	330	26	Kansas
41	Lyght, Todd	CB	6-0	186	28	Notre Dame
35	Lyle, Keith	S	6-2	204	25	Virginia
23	McBurrows, Gerald	S	5-11	188	23	Kansas
25	Montgomery, T.	RB	6-0	190	26	Mississippi
31	Moss, Brent	RB	5-8	211	25	Wisconsin
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	265	33	Oklahoma St.
95	Ottis, Brad	DT	6-4	272	24	Wayne State
27	Parker, Anthony	CB	5-10	181	31	Arizona State
58	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	230	29	UCLA
83	Pinkney, Lovell	WR	6-4	248	24	Texas
87	Price, Jim	TE	6-4	247	30	Stanford
28	Robinson, Greg	RB	5-10	205	27	NE Louisiana
11	Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	34	Washington St.
59	Sheppard, Ashley	LB	6-3	240	28	Clemson
66	Swinson, Corey	T	6-5	334	27	Hampton
18	Thomas, J.T.	WR	5-10	173	25	Arizona State
4	Walsh, Steve	QB	6-3	205	30	Miami
94	White, Alberto	DE	6-3	245	26	Texas Southern
67	White, Dwayne	G	6-2	315	30	Alcorn State
73	Wiegert, Zach	T	6-4	311	24	Nebraska
19	Williams, Billy	WR	5-11	175	26	Tennessee
96	Williams, Jay	DE	6-3	266	25	Wake Forest
89	Wright, Alexander	WR	6-0	195	29	Auburn
32	Wright, Toby	S	5-11	203	26	Nebraska
76	Young, Robert	DE	6-6	273	28	Mississippi St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Phillips, Lawrence	RB	5-11	229	Nebraska
1	Kennison, Eddie	WR	5-11	191	LSU
2	Banks, Tony	QB	6-4	210	Michigan St.
2	Conwell, Ernie	FB	6-1	253	Washington
3	Moore, Jerald	RB	5-9	229	Oklahoma
4	Gaskins, Percell	LB	5-11	209	Kansas State
5	Miller, Fred	OT	6-6	298	Baylor
6	Harris, Derrick	FB	5-10	256	Miami
6	Clay, Hayward	TE	6-3	260	Texas A&M
7	Osborne, Chuck	DT	6-1	282	Arizona

Carolina Panthers



After winning seven games in South Carolina, the Panthers will move into their permanent home in North Carolina this year in hopes that the most successful expansion team in NFL history will create more excitement. Traveling to Clemson for the inaugural season produced only one sellout. The Panthers traveled to San Francisco and beat the world champion 49ers for their fourth win in a row and upon returning home a game later, they were greeted by their smallest crowd of the season.

Great Expectations

The new stadium in Charlotte has been proclaimed the finest in the NFL by commissioner Paul Tagliabue and the team already is only a couple of games away from the playoffs. So expectations for coach Dom Capers are higher than they are for some franchises 20 and 30 years older.

The problem with the Panthers is that their defense is already old. It carried them last year, finishing seventh in the league, but the star is 37-year-old linebacker Sam Mills. Instead of concentrating on a youth movement on defense this off-season, the Panthers bolstered their offense to take pressure off young quarterback Kerry Collins and the burden off Mills and company. The defense gave up only 20.3 points a game, an expansion record, but the offense responded by scoring just 18 per game.

Poise and Potential

Once Collins started in game five, the Panthers improved, but they never had the weapons necessary to scare a defense. Preseason moves changed that, especially when Tim Biakabutuka, Michigan's speedy running back, unexpectedly fell to the eighth spot in the draft. Collins became the first rookie quarterback since Dan Marino to win more starts than he lost (7-6). His 2,717 yards passing were more than Drew Bledsoe or Marino had in their first seasons.

What Collins didn't do was throw more touchdown passes (14) than interceptions (19). But the poise and potential Collins showed is promising. It's one thing to play quarterback as a rookie; it's quite another to start as a rookie quarterback with an expansion team. With Collins solidly entrenched, the Panthers made changes in their backups, sending Frank Reich and Jack Trudeau packing and adding Steve Beuerlein from the Jaguars and ex-Seahawk Kelly Stouffer from the street.

Record Receivers

Collins was surrounded mostly by castoffs. Mark Carrier led the club with 66 catches for 1,002 yards and three touchdowns and Willie Green led the NFC with an average of 18.8 yards per catch. Together they broke records for a receiving tandem in an expansion year. Little Eric Guliford was the third receiver and ex-Bills Don Beebe and tight end Pete Metzelaars contributed only 34 catches between them. General manager Bill Polian addressed that by bringing in Wesley Walls, whose 57 receptions passes last season for the Saints ranked sixth among all tight ends.

To push the wideouts, the Panthers drafted big Muhsin Muhammad of Michigan State in the second round. At 6-2, 215,

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Kasay, 105 points on 27 extra points and 26 field goals	9th
RUSHING—Moore, 740 yards on 195 carries, 3.8 avg., 4 TDs	12th
PASSING—Collins, 214 of 432 attempts for 2,717 yards and 14 TDs	15th
RECEIVING—Carrier, 66 receptions for 1,002 yards, 15.2 avg., 3 TDs	17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Maxie, 6 for 59 yards, 9.8 average	T4th
PUNTING—Barnhardt, 95 punts, 41.1 avg., longest 54 yards	10th
PUNT RETURNS—Guliford, 43 for 475 yards, 11.0 average	3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Beebe, 9 for 215 yards, 23.9 average	unranked
SACKS—Lathon, 8.0 sacks	17th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	CHICAGO (N)
	10	At Denver (N)
	17	BUFFALO (N)
	23	At N.Y. Giants (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	ATLANTA	21-17
	8	At New Orleans	26-34
	15	Open Date	
	22	SAN FRANCISCO	10-31
	29	At Jacksonville	
October	6	At Minnesota	
	13	ST. LOUIS	10-31
	20	NEW ORLEANS	20-3
	27	At Philadelphia	
November	3	At Atlanta	20-23
	10	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	
	17	At St. Louis	17-28
	24	At Houston	
December	1	TAMPA BAY	13-20
	8	At San Francisco	13-7
	15	BALTIMORE	
	22	PITTSBURGH	

The Panthers bolstered their offense in the off-season to take pressure off young quarterback Kerry Collins.

TIM O'DELL

Muhammad has the size, and at 4.43 he has the speed. They also added Olympic sprint medalist Michael Bates from the Seahawks and Ray Crittenden from the Patriots and re-signed Dwight Stone, who played only on special teams after catching 152 passes in eight years in Pittsburgh.

Draft Brings Running Backs

Biakabutuka was the first of four running backs drafted by the Panthers, exposing the main problem in the 26th-ranked offense. Biakabutuka came out a year early, but he demonstrated his potential with a 313-yard effort against Ohio State in the season finale. Despite limited football background, the native of Zaire has great acceleration and running instinct.

Howard Griffith, Anthony Johnson, and Bob Christian are the fullback candidates along with sixth-round plugger Scott Greene of Michigan State. Third-rounder Winslow Oliver of New Mexico is a little sprinter with third-down potential. Fifth-rounder Marquette Smith of Central Florida is a short former high school All-America.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Dom Capers, Head Coach
Vic Fangio, Defensive Coordinator
Joe Pendry, Offensive Coordinator
Don Breaux, Tight Ends
Blair Bush, Assistant Offfensive Line
George Catavolos, Defensive Backs
Billy Davis, Outside Linebackers
Ted Gill, Defensive Line
Chick Harris, Running Backs
Jim McNally, Offensive Line
Chip Morton, Strength & Conditioning
Brad Seely, Special Teams
John Shoop, Quality Control, Offense
Kevin Steele, Linebackers
Richard Williamson, Wide Receivers

In the Line of Fire

Polian signed huge right tackle Greg Skrepanak from the Raiders to anchor the right side of the offensive line. Rookie left tackle Blake Brockermeyer was outstanding after an expected shaky start. Rookie left guard Frank Garcia also performed well, as did expansion center Curtis Whitley. The right guard is open, with 6-5, 315-pound fourth-round choice Norberto Garrido of USC an early favorite. Matt Elliott, Mark Dennis, Sean Love, Brandon Hayes, and Andrew Peterson provide depth.

Front and Center

The defense welcomed the addition of free agent cornerback Eric Davis from the 49ers, but up front remains a question. Left end Mike Fox earned his big contract and fits perfectly into the attacking 3-4 alignment by stopping the run and applying pressure up the middle. He had a team-high 28 quarterback pressures and led all defensive linemen in every statistical category while setting career marks with 57 tackles, 10 batted passes, and equaling his personal best of 4 1/2 sacks.

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Nose tackle Greg Kragen is a war horse who at 34 could use relief for the knees and may get it from third-rounder J.C. Price of Virginia Tech. The right end is open with high hopes for second-year man Shawn King, who contributed as a pass rusher. Gerald Williams and Mark Thomas provide depth.

General Mills

Mills was typically unbelievable in his 10th NFL season. The former Saints' all-pro showed zero signs of slowing down by leading the Panthers in tackles (130), forced fumbles (6), and fumble recoveries (4) and setting career highs in interceptions (5) and sacks (4 1/2). His interception return for a touchdown against the Jets propelled the Panthers to their first victory. He led all NFC inside linebackers in every category except tackles and somehow wasn't voted to the Pro Bowl, a terrible oversight.

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All in all, it might have been the greatest year in a great career.

Carlton Bailey plays beside Mills and veterans Darion Conner and Lamar Lathon are on the flanks. Neither flashed the pass-rush potential expected in Capers' defense, although Lathon led the club with eight sacks and Conner finished with seven. In May, the Panthers signed Kevin Greene, the Steelers' veteran pass-rushing linebacker. Andre Royal, Paul Butcher, and Brett Faryniarz lend depth.

PANTHERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-3	235	32	North Carolina
6	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-2	207	34	North Carolina
83	Bates, Michael	WR	5-10	196	27	Arizona
78	Brockermeyer, Blake	T	6-4	305	24	Texas
53	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	240	33	Wayne State
33	By'Not'e, Butler	CB	5-9	190	24	Ohio State
87	Campbell, Matthew	TE	6-4	270	24	South Carolina
83	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	31	Nicholls St.
44	Christian, Bob	RB	5-10	225	28	Northwestern
12	Collins, Kerry	QB	6-5	240	24	Penn State
56	Conner, Darion	LB	6-2	242	29	Jackson St.
37	Cota, Chad	S	6-1	195	25	Oregon
81	Crittenden, Ray	WR	6-0	188	27	Virginia Tech
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	29	Jacksonville St.
62	Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	296	32	Illinois
52	Elliott, Matt	G	6-3	294	28	Michigan
55	Faryniarz, Brett	LB	6-3	230	31	San Diego St.
50	Fountaine, Jamal	LB	6-3	240	26	Washington
93	Fox, Mike	DT	6-8	288	29	West Virginia
65	Garcia, Frank	C	6-1	290	25	Washington
86	Green, Willie	WR	6-4	188	31	Mississippi
	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	33	Auburn
30	Griffith, Howard	RB	6-0	226	29	Illinois
23	Johnson, Anthony	RB	6-0	222	29	Notre Dame
81	Jones, Reggie	WR	6-0	175	26	LSU
4	Kasay, John	K	5-10	189	27	Georgia
96	King, Shawn	DE	6-3	279	25	NE Louisiana
71	Kragen, Greg	DT	6-3	265	35	Utah State
57	Lathon, Lamar	LB	6-3	252	29	Houston
27	Lofton, Steve	CB	5-9	185	28	Texas A&M
79	Love, Sean	G	6-3	300	28	Penn State
39	Maxie, Brett	S	6-2	194	35	Texas Southern
25	McDowell, Bubba	S	6-1	198	30	Miami
22	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	178	33	Texas-Arlington
95	Miller, Les	NT	6-7	285	32	Fort Hays St.
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	38	Montclair St.
20	Moore, Derrick	RB	6-1	227	29	NE. Oklahoma
83	Obee, Terry	WR	5-10	189	29	Oregon
60	Peterson, Andrew	G	6-5	310	25	Washington
34	Philyaw, Dino	RB	5-10	192	26	Oregon
38	Poole, Tyrone	CB	5-8	185	25	Fort Valley St.
89	Rasby, Walter	TE	6-3	247	24	Wake Forest
63	Rodenhauser, M.	C	6-5	280	36	Illinois State
58	Royal, Andre	LB	6-2	220	24	Alabama
78	Skrepenak, Greg	T	6-6	315	27	Michigan
21	Smith, Rod	CB	5-11	187	27	Notre Dame
80	Stone, Dwight	WR	6-0	180	33	Middle Tenn. St.
11	Stouffer, Kelly	QB	6-3	214	32	Colorado St.
40	Terrell, Pat	S	6-2	210	29	Notre Dame
31	Thomas, Blair	RB	5-10	202	29	Penn State
85	Walls, Wesley	TE	6-5	250	31	Mississippi
64	Whitley, Curtis	C	6-1	288	28	Clemson
16	Wiggins, Brian	WR	5-11	183	29	Texas Southern
98	Williams, Gerald	DE	6-3	288	33	Auburn
59	Yeboah-Kodie, P.	LB	6-2	220	26	Penn State
90	Zgonina, Jeff	DT	6-1	287	27	Purdue

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Biakabutuka, Tim	RB	6-0	205	Michigan
2	Muhammad, Muhsin	WR	6-2	214	Michigan St..
3	Oliver, Winslow	RB	5-7	172	New Mexico
3	Price, J.C.	DT	6-2	278	Virginia Tech
4	Garrido, Norberto	OL	6-5	310	USC
4	McDaniel, Emmanuel	CB	5-9	170	E. Carolina
5	Smith, Marquette	RB	5-6	195	Central Florida
6	Green, Scott	RB	5-10	227	Michigan St.
7	Baker, Donnell	WR	6-0	180	Southern
7	Hicks, Kerry	DE	6-5	265	Colorado

Defensive Cornerstones

Davis complements last year's outstanding rookie corner, Tyrone Poole, whose lack of size proved no detriment. Davis replaces Tim McKyer with Rod Smith, Steve Lofton, and Butler By'not'e in reserve, along with fourth-round draft choice Emmanuel McDaniel of East Carolina. Veterans Brett Maxie and Pat Terrell played better than expected at the safeties, with the 33-year-old Maxie enjoying his best season. He was third in the NFC with six interceptions, starting every game and making 105 tackles despite surgery on both knees the previous two seasons. The backups are Bubba McDowell and Chad Cota.

Special Teams

John Kasay was fourth in the NFC in field goals and Tommy Barnhardt punted more times (95) than anyone else in the NFC, a distinction Collins and the offense would like to eliminate. Guliford was third in the NFC in punt returns and took one back for a touchdown. By'not'e and Stone are the kickoff-return men, but rookie Oliver returned both kickoffs and punts.

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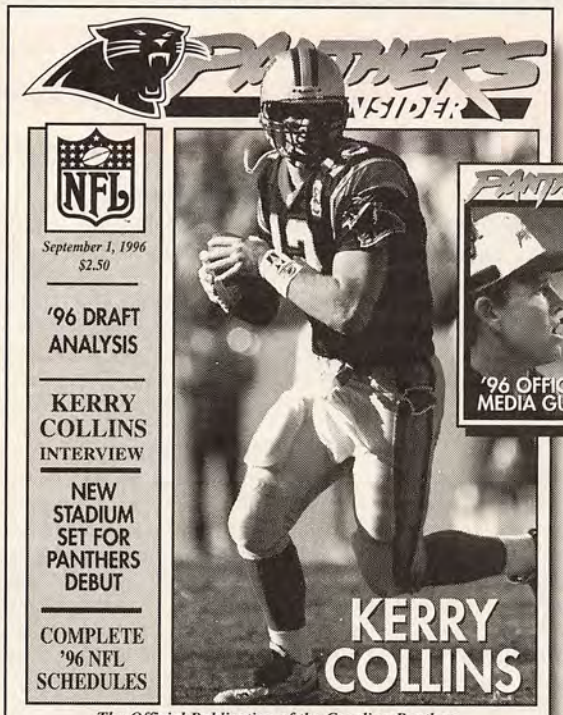

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G-96-110

Green Bay Packers

For the seventh time in four seasons, the Packers will travel to Texas Stadium to play the Cowboys. So far, they are 0-6. The idea infuriates Packers coach Mike Holmgren, who asked the NFL to explain the scheduling formula to him. The Packers' plight is a freak of nature in a formula that usually makes more sense. That the Packers have played and lost three straight playoff games in Texas Stadium is no fault of the formula. To correct this trend, the Packers simply have to win home-field advantage. "We have to get them on grass," said general manager Ron Wolf.

One Giant Leap

After years of small, steady steps forward, this would be the giant leap for the Packers, a team that is trying to make the most of its current window of opportunity. Reggie White will be 35 by this season's end. Although the Packers improved dramatically after the departure of the injured Sterling Sharpe, it's hard to imagine similar progress if the team were to lose White. A hamstring injury was diagnosed last season as requiring surgery before White made a miraculous comeback. Could he possibly get any better this year?

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

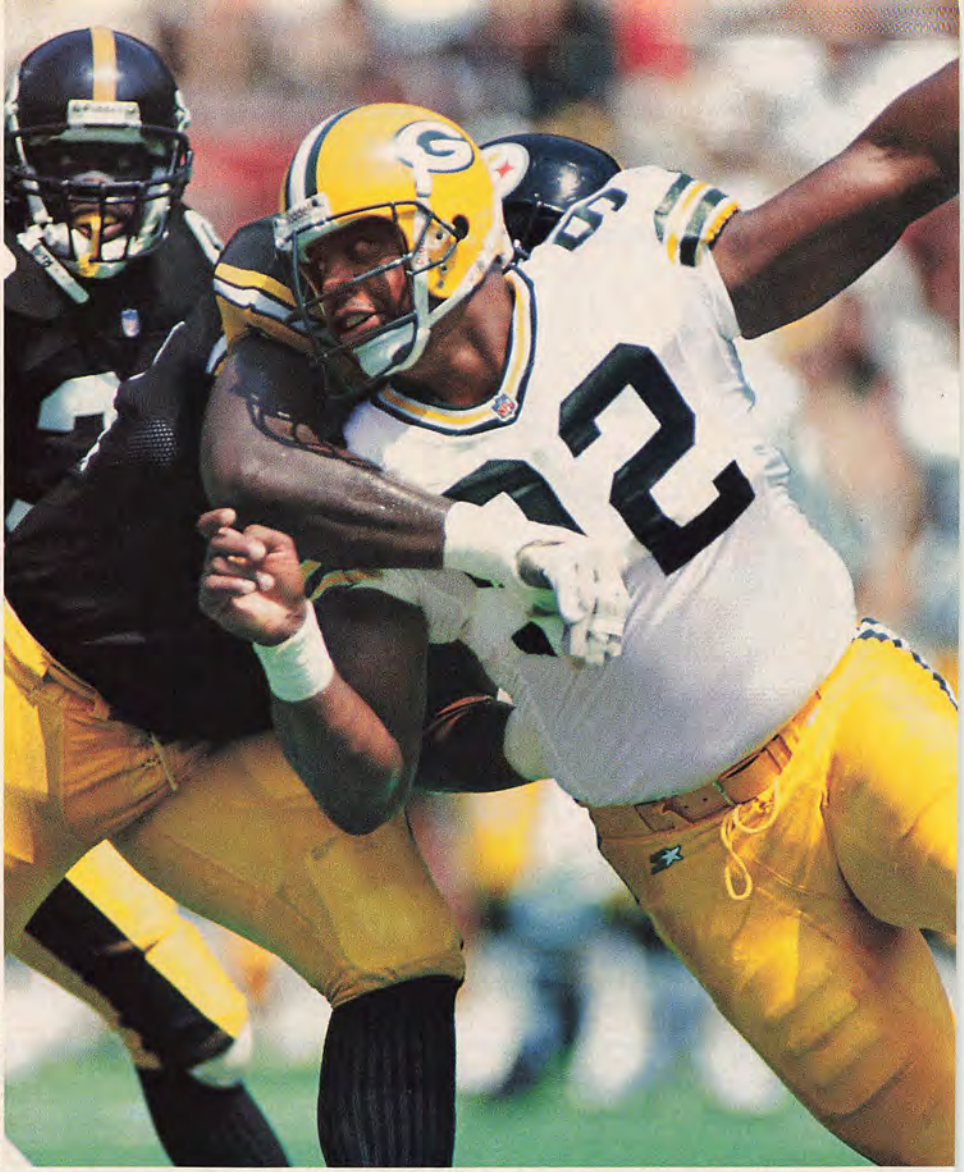
SCORING—Jacke, 94 points on 43 extra points and 17 field goals	13th
RUSHING—Bennett, 1,067 yards on 316 carries, 3.4 avg., 3 TDs	10th
PASSING—Favre, 359 of 570 attempts for 4,413 yards and 38 TDs	1st
RECEIVING—Brooks, 102 receptions for 1,497 yards, 14.7 avg., 13 TDs	8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Butler, 5 for 105 yards, 21.0 average	T10th
PUNTING—Hentrich, 65 punts, 42.2 avg., longest 61 yards	7th
PUNT RETURNS—Jordan, 21 for 213 yards, 10.1 average	5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Freeman, 24 for 556 yards, 23.2 average	5th
SACKS—White, 12.0 sacks	3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	OAKLAND (N)
	11	PITTSBURGH (N)
	17	At Baltimore (N)
	24	At Indianapolis (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Tampa Bay	10-13
	9	PHILADELPHIA (N)	
	15	SAN DIEGO	
	22	At Minnesota	24-27
	29	At Seattle	
October	6	At Chicago	27-24
	14	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	
	20	Open Date	
	27	TAMPA BAY	35-13
November	3	DETROIT	30-21
	10	At Kansas City	
	18	At Dallas (N)	24-34
	24	At St. Louis (N)	14-17
December	1	CHICAGO	35-28
	8	DENVER	
	15	At Detroit	16-24
	22	MINNESOTA	38-21



RIC FOGEL / SPORTFOLIO

Reggie White made a miraculous comeback from a hamstring injury that was diagnosed as requiring surgery. Could he possibly get any better?

The Favre Side

It's a good question for quarterback Brett Favre, too. The runaway MVP of the league, Favre is coming off a spectacular season of 38 touchdown passes and only 13 interceptions. Over the last two seasons, nobody is close to Favre's 71 TD tosses. Steve Young has 55 and Dan Marino 54 over the same period. At the tender age of 26, Favre hasn't approached the physical or mental prime for quarterbacks, so Holmgren and Packer fans expect a bright future indeed. First on Favre's list of things to do, however, is erase the memory of a subpar performance in the Cowboy playoff loss.

Favre is so good that the Packers lost a good backup for the second year in a row when Ty Detmer signed in Philadelphia, following Mark Brunell's exit to Jacksonville. But the Pack re-signed veteran Jim McMahon in case of emergency and like ex-Dolphin Doug Pederson. They also drafted USC's Kyle Wachholtz in the seventh round.

Favorite Targets

Wide receiver Robert Brooks surprised everybody except Favre when he more than adequately replaced Sharpe. After catching only 90 passes in his first three seasons, Brooks reached 102 last season and gained more yards (1,497) than Sharpe ever did in a season. Brooks added 13 touchdowns and endeared himself to Lambeau Field fans by jumping into the end zone stands in celebration.

Brooks shared the spotlight with eight other players who caught touchdown passes as Favre spread around the glory. This

year, there will be others. Gone is last year's No. 2 wide receiver, Mark Ingram, likely to be replaced by either Anthony Morgan or second-year prospect Antonio Freeman. Terry Mickens is another prospect who will get a look, and don't count out second-round draft choice Derrick Mayes of Notre Dame, a good-sized big-play receiver the Packers say reminds them somewhat of Sharpe. Prospect Charles Jordan signed with Miami and was replaced by veteran Don Beebe on the training camp roster.

Favre's second-favorite target is tight end Mark Chmura, whose 54 catches for seven touchdowns was comparable to the 61 catches by outlet receiver Edgar Bennett and the 48 by fullback Dorsey Levens. Chmura was thrust into action after the Packers failed until late in the season to convince Keith Jackson to report. Chmura then kept Jackson to spot duty and made the Pro Bowl.

Among the Elite

Bennett was outstanding after moving from fullback to tailback. His 1,067 yards rushing and 648 yards receiving gave him a team-record 1,715 and puts him among the elite all-purpose backs in the game. The Packers love his adaptability to bad weather. The Packers drafted Minnesota's speedy Chris Darkins as a change-of-pace back and hope to have better luck than they did with LeShon Johnson. First, Darkins would have to beat out second-year prospect Travis Jervey, who is bidding for playing time. Levens had a good year at fullback and William Henderson is coming off a rookie knee injury and could push for time.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Mike Holmgren, Head Coach
Sherman Lewis, Offensive Coordinator
Fritz Shurmur, Defensive Coordinator
Larry Brooks, Defensive Line
Nolan Cromwell, Special Teams
Gil Haskell, Wide Receivers
Johnny Holland, Defensive Assistant/ Quality Control
Kent Johnston, Strength & Conditioning
Jim Lind, Linebackers
Tom Lovat, Offensive Line
Marty Mornhinwig, Quarterbacks
Andy Reid, Tight Ends/Asst. Offensive Line
Harry Sydney, Running Backs
Bob Valesente, Defensive Backs

Line Change

The line will undergo some change, depending on the recovery rate of budding guard Aaron Taylor, who suffered his second serious injury in three seasons. Gary Brown is a guard/tackle who could serve as Taylor's sub. Replacement Adam Timmerman figures as the successor to Harry Galbreath at the other guard. Frank Winters is the center and Ken Ruettgers and Earl Dotson are entrenched at the tackles.

The Packers spent their first draft choice on USC's John Michels, the heir apparent to the 34-year-old Ruettgers. They also spent a third on UCLA center Mike Flanagan and a sixth on Penn State guard Marco Rivera. Lindsay Knapp and Mike Arthur are reserves.

One for the Bookends

The Packers had the best defense in the NFC Central Division, but only the sixth-best in the NFC, a situation defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur would like to improve. With White and 33-year-old Sean Jones as the ends, the foundation is solid. Filling in the rest is the trick. White's 12 sacks and Jones's 9 were the best in the NFC by two ends. They are now the first team in the history of sacks to field two players with more than 100 career sacks.

Adding Santana Dotson from Tampa Bay to replace John Jurkovic at one tackle will improve the pass rush considerably. Dotson had five sacks last year. The real key to improvement, however, may be the development of 340-pound Gilbert Brown, who looked so good at a mini-camp that Shurmur called him an "awesome force." He has been slowed by knee and elbow surgeries. Gabe Wilkins and Matt LaBounty are competent backups at ends and second-year players Darius Holland, Shannon Clavelle and Bob Kuberski are backups inside.

continued

Behind the Front

The Packers lost middle linebacker Fred Strickland to Dallas and wanted to sign Buffalo's Cornelius Bennett. They settled for the Bears' Ron Cox, who has never played in the middle. The Packers think he is strong enough to do it and Cox is willing, especially behind the beefy front the Packers field. Wayne Simmons came on at the end of last year as a force at strongside linebacker and had a career game in the playoff victory over the 49ers. George Koonce is the starter on the weak side with Bernardo Harris, Brian Williams, and Robert Bass the backups.

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
50	Arthur, Mike	C	6-3	280	29	Texas A&M
21	Baldwin, Randy	RB	5-10	216	29	Mississippi
56	Bass, Robert	LB	6-1	239	26	Miami
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	183	32	Chadron State
34	Bennett, Edgar	RB	6-0	224	28	Florida State
33	Bostic, James	RB	5-11	225	25	Auburn
47	Brooks, Bucky	WR	5-11	186	26	North Carolina
87	Brooks, Robert	WR	6-0	180	27	South Carolina
71	Brown, Gary	T	6-4	315	26	Georgia Tech
93	Brown, Gilbert	NT	6-2	340	26	Kansas
36	Butler, LeRoy	S	6-0	200	28	Florida State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	250	28	Boston College
91	Clavelle, Shannon	DT	6-2	283	23	Colorado
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	235	29	Fresno St.
45	Crawford, Keith	CB	6-2	198	26	Howard Payne
23	Dorsett, Matthew	CB	5-11	187	23	Southern
72	Dotson, Earl	T	6-3	310	26	Texas A&I
71	Dotson, Santana	DT	6-5	276	27	Baylor
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-0	190	27	Louisiana Tech
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	220	26	Southern Miss.
86	Freeman, Antonio	WR	6-0	187	25	Virginia Tech
55	Freeman, Reggie	LB	6-2	237	27	Florida State
76	Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	295	32	Tennessee
54	Harris, Bernardo	LB	6-2	243	25	North Carolina
30	Henderson, W.	RB	6-1	248	26	North Carolina
17	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	200	26	Notre Dame
90	Holland, Darius	DT	6-4	305	23	Colorado
51	Hollinquest, L.	LB	6-3	245	26	USC
46	Holt, Reggie	S	5-11	202	26	Wisconsin
13	Jacke, Chris	K	6-0	205	31	Texas-El Paso
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	258	32	Oklahoma
32	Jervey, Travis	RB	5-11	225	25	Citadel
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	283	33	Northeastern
65	Knapp, Lindsay	G	6-6	290	27	Notre Dame
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	243	28	East Carolina
94	Kuberski, Bob	NT	6-4	300	26	Navy
97	LaBounty, Matt	DE	6-3	278	28	Oregon
25	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	240	27	Georgia Tech
22	McGill, Lenny	CB	6-1	198	26	Arizona State
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	195	37	BYU
85	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-0	198	26	Florida A&M
81	Morgan, Anthony	WR	6-1	200	29	Tennessee
28	Mullen, Roderick	CB	6-1	204	24	Grambling
21	Newsome, Craig	CB	5-11	188	25	Arizona State
18	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	212	29	NE Louisiana
39	Prior, Mike	S	6-0	208	33	Illinois State
16	Query, Jeff	WR	6-0	165	30	Millikin
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-6	292	34	USC
59	Simmons, Wayne	LB	6-2	248	27	Clemson
79	Taylor, Aaron	T	6-3	304	24	Notre Dame
31	Teague, George	S	6-1	195	26	Alabama
83	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-4	250	27	Oregon
63	Timmerman, Adam	G	6-4	289	25	South Dakota St.
23	Turner, Marcus	CB	6-0	190	31	UCLA
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	300	34	Tennessee
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	295	32	Tennessee
98	Wilkins, Gabe	DT	6-4	310	25	Gardner-Webb
51	Williams, Brian	LB	6-1	238	24	USC
29	Wilson, Marcus	RB	6-1	215	29	Virginia
52	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	295	33	W. Illinois

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Michels, John	OT	6-6	290	USC
2	Mayes, Derrick	WR	6-0	215	Notre Dame
3	Flanagan, Mike	C	6-4	285	UCLA
3	Williams, Tyrone	CB	5-11	185	Nebraska
4	Darkins, Chris	RB	6-0	236	Minnesota
6	Rivera, Marco	G	6-4	280	Penn State
7	Wachholtz, Kyle	QB	6-4	233	USC
7	McKenzie, Keith	LB	6-3	241	Ball State

Defensive Backfield

In the secondary, free safety George Teague is coming off a disappointing third season. Lenny McGill was moved from corner to safety. Second-year man Roderick Mullen also is a free safety. Strong safety LeRoy Butler is the best playmaker of the bench and led the team with five interceptions. Veteran Mike Prior is the backup. Cornerbacks Doug Evans and Craig Newsome experimented at free safety before training camp but are entrenched at the corners. Newsome had a fine rookie season. Third-rounder Tyrone Williams of Nebraska will join McGill and Keith Crawford in the reserve picture.

Happy Returns

Chris Jacke is an excellent bad-weather kicker, perfect for the Packers. Craig Hentrich is outstanding on punts and kickoffs. Freeman and Jervey returned kicks last year and Freeman broke a punt for a touchdown in a playoff victory against Atlanta.

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SS/PF

DAVE STLUKA

The Bears plan to concentrate more on ball control with Rashaan Salaam, who led all NFC rookies in rushing.

Chicago Bears

As the only winning team (9-7) left out of the playoffs last season, the Bears feel they are closer than most also-rans to a significant breakthrough. "All the pieces are in place," coach Dave Wannstedt said.

Picking Up the Pieces

The first order of business is to pick up the pieces left by four devastating losses in a row to archrival Green Bay. Last year, the Bears scored 52 points in two games against the Packers, only to lose both in a barrage of eight touchdown passes by Brett Favre. At least they got closer than they did the year before, when the Packers overwhelmed the Bears in two games 73-9.

The Packers aren't the only hurdle. The Bears lost twice last year to NFC Central Division rival Detroit when receiver Herman Moore caught 20 of his record 123 passes. Such defensive letdowns are embarrassments to Wannstedt, who addressed them in the off-season. He knows to get to Dallas or San Francisco, he has to go through Green Bay and Detroit.

Priorities

First, the Bears made controversial Miami linebacker Bryan Cox their No. 1 free-agent priority and landed him with a four-year, $13.2 million deal that included a $5 million signing bonus. Then they traded up in the first round of the draft for the first time in 20 years to land Mississippi State cornerback Walt Harris.

Clearly, defense is the priority. Wannstedt made it known that while he was happy with the 29 touchdown passes thrown last season by Erik Kramer, he no longer intends to get into shootouts in his division. Kramer's TD numbers were fourth in the entire league, but also fourth in the division. Kramer's efficiency was underscored by only 15 sacks and a passer rating that ranked him fourth in the league.

The Bears' confidence in Kramer became apparent when they let backup Steve Walsh escape to St. Louis, leaving only untested Steve Stenstrom and Shane Matthews behind him. Walsh led the Bears to the playoffs in 1994 when Kramer lost his job following a shoulder injury, but Kramer was the only quarterback to take all of his team's snaps last season.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler, 114 points on 45 extra points and 23 field goals T6th

RUSHING—Salaam, 1,074 yards on 296 carries, 3.6 avg., 10 TDs 8th

PASSING—Kramer, 315 of 522 attempts for 3,838 yards and 29 TDs 3rd

RECEIVING—Graham, 82 receptions for 1,301 yards, 15.9 avg., 4 TDs 11th

INTERCEPTIONS—Woolford, 4 for 21 yards, 5.3 average T17th

PUNTING—Sauerbrun, 55 punts, 37.8 avg., longest 61 yards 15th

PUNT RETURNS—Graham, 23 for 183 yards, 8.0 average 8th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 42 for 904 yards, 21.5 average 10th

SACKS—Flanigan, 11.0 sacks T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At Carolina
	11	MIAMI
	17	At New Orleans (N)
	22	KANSAS CITY (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	2	DALLAS (N)	
	8	At Washington	
	15	MINNESOTA	31-14
	22	At Detroit	7-27
	29	OAKLAND	
October	6	GREEN BAY	24-27
	13	At New Orleans	
	20	Open Date	
	28	At Minnesota (N)	14-6
November	3	TAMPA BAY	31-10
	10	At Denver	
	17	At Kansas City	
	24	DETROIT	17-24
December	1	At Green Bay	28-35
	8	ST. LOUIS	28-34
	14	SAN DIEGO	
	22	At Tampa Bay	25-6

Ball Control

To make certain the Bears wouldn't join their pass-happy neighbors, the Bears let leading receiver Jeff Graham go in free agency to the Jets. The idea is to concentrate more on the ball-control attack that second-year running back Rashaan Salaam can provide. Salaam led all NFC rookies with 1,074 yards and 10 touchdowns, but nine fumbles kept him off the field at crucial times. His development is expected to be speeded by the return of fullback Raymont Harris from a broken collarbone and the challenge of change-of-pace back Robert Green, whose 5.3-yard average was second only to Philadelphia's Charlie Garner. Tony Carter caught 40 passes subbing for Harris at fullback.

Deep Threat

Kramer still has speedy Curtis Conway, who caught 12 touchdown passes, and Michael Timpson as his deep threats. After watching last year's fourth-round draft choice, Jack Jackson, and this year's second choice, Bobby Engram, perform in mini-camp, Wannstedt had second thoughts about trying to add a veteran to the mix to help make up for Graham's 82 catches. Jackson spent last season on injured reserve and Engram was a pleasant addition after a big-play, big-time career at Penn State. The Bears believe he is the perfect cold-weather producer who will fit in as a third receiver if not push for a starting job.

Tight end is a question Bears offensive coordinator Ron Turner expects to answer by committee. Keith Jennings is the blocker, but his six touchdown catches in only

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
91	Baker, Myron	LB	6-1	232	26	Louisiana Tech
88	Bownes, Fabien	WR	5-11	180	25	Western Illinois
63	Burger, Todd	G	6-3	301	27	Penn State
35	Burton, James	CB	5-9	181	26	Fresno State
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	205	34	Georgia
59	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	239	32	Oregon Tech
20	Carrier, Mark	S	6-1	190	29	USC
23	Carter, Marty	S	6-1	209	27	Mid. Tenn. St.
30	Carter, Tony	RB	5-11	232	24	Minnesota
18	Coleman, Mill	WR	5-9	175	25	Michigan St.
80	Conway, Curtis	WR	6-0	193	26	USC
51	Cox, Bryan	LB	6-4	248	29	Western Illinois
79	Cunningham, Ed	C	6-3	285	27	Washington
25	Eilers, Pat	S	5-11	195	30	Notre Dame
38	Faulkerson, Mike	RB	6-0	237	26	North Carolina
99	Flanigan, Jim	DT	6-2	280	25	Notre Dame
96	Fontenot, Al	DE	6-4	275	26	Baylor
67	Fontenot, Jerry	C	6-3	300	30	Texas A&M
48	Gales, Kenny	CB	5-11	176	23	Wisconsin
84	Gedney, Chris	TE	6-5	265	26	Syracuse
22	Green, Robert	RB	5-8	212	26	William & Mary
57	Harris, Sean	LB	6-3	244	25	Arizona
64	Heck, Andy	T	6-6	296	30	Notre Dame
88	Jackson, Jack	WR	5-8	171	23	Florida
85	Jennings, Keith	TE	6-4	270	31	Clemson
37	Johnson, Keshon	CB	5-10	183	26	Arizona
32	Joseph, Dwayne	CB	5-9	188	25	Syracuse
12	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-1	200	32	N. C. State
82	Lewis, Nate	WR	5-11	198	30	Oregon Tech
79	Lewis, Scotty	DE	6-3	266	25	Baylor
39	Lincoln, Jeremy	CB	5-10	180	28	Tennessee
43	Lundy, Dennis	RB	5-9	190	24	Northwestern
26	Mangum, John	S	5-10	186	30	Alabama
36	Marshall, Anthony	S	6-1	205	26	LSU
9	Matthews, Shane	QB	6-3	196	27	Florida
24	Miniefield, Kevin	CB	5-9	180	27	Arizona State
92	Minter, Barry	LB	6-2	240	27	Tulsa
75	Perry, Todd	G	6-5	310	26	Kentucky
65	Pilgrim, Evan	G	6-4	300	24	BYU
69	Polk, Octus	G	6-3	340	25	Stephen F. Austin
87	President, Andre	TE	6-3	255	26	Angelo St.
68	Reeves, Carl	DE	6-3	242	23	N.C. State
78	Riley, Pat	DT	6-5	285	25	Miami
31	Salaam, Rashaan	RB	6-1	226	22	Colorado
16	Sauerbrun, Todd	P	5-10	206	26	West Virginia
98	Simpson, Carl	DT	6-2	298	27	Florida State
55	Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	247	31	East Carolina
76	Spears, Marcus	G	6-4	300	25	NW Louisiana
90	Spellman, Alonzo	DE	6-4	250	25	Ohio State
18	Stenstrom, Steve	QB	6-2	200	25	Stanford
67	Sullivan, Mike	G	6-3	292	29	Miami
94	Thierry, John	DE	6-4	260	25	Alcorn State
83	Timpson, Michael	WR	5-10	180	30	Penn State
89	Wetnight, Ryan	TE	6-2	235	26	Stanford
71	Williams, James	T	6-7	335	29	Cheyney
21	Woolford, Donnell	CB	5-9	188	31	Clemson
97	Zorich, Chris	DT	6-1	280	28	Notre Dame

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Harris, Walt	FS	5-11	191	Mississippi St.
2	Engram, Bobby	WR	5-10	188	Penn State
4	Grasmanis, Paul	OT	6-2	278	Notre Dame
5	Villarrial, Chris	G	6-3	303	Indiana (PA)
6	Clark, Jon	OT	6-5	340	Temple
7	Keyes, Marcus	DT	6-3	311	North Alabama
7	Hicks, Michael	RB	6-1	188	S. C. State

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25 receptions indicates he can be an effective threat. Chris Gedney hasn't enjoyed a healthy season in three years, but he could provide a deep threat. Andre President and Ryan Wetnight are reserves.

Lining Up

The Bears feel comfortable on the offensive line despite losing starting right guard Jay Leeuwenburg, reserve left tackle Troy Auzenne to Indianapolis, third-string tackle Scott Adams to Tampa Bay, and center Jerry Fontenot to the salary cap. Tackles Andy Heck and James Williams are solid bookends. Left guard Todd Perry is on the verge of league-wide recognition. Ed Cunningham was signed from Arizona to play center. Line coach Tony Wise says second-year guard Octus Polk reminds him of the Cowboys' Nate Newton. But Polk will have to beat out second-year man Evan Pilgrim and third-year man Todd Burger for Leeuwenburg's spot. Draft choices Chris Villarrial of Indiana (PA) and Jon Clark of Temple and former second-round pick Marcus Spears are backups.

Retooled Front

Cox's signing not only changed the linebacking look, it retooled the front four. The Bears matched an offer from Jacksonville to keep left end Alonzo Spellman and will move him to his former position on the right side. Third-year man John Thierry will move from right to left end and try to hold up against the run. On passing downs, Spellman will slide from right end to tackle and allow Cox to move to right end. Cox led the Dolphins in sacks last year with 7 1/2. The tackles are Jim Flanigan, who led the Bears with 11 sacks as a second-year man, and Chris Zorich. Draft choice Paul Grasmanis of Notre Dame, Al Fontenot, Pat Riley, Carl Reeves, and Carl Simpson will battle for backup spots.

Cox moves middle linebacker Joe Cain back to his more familiar outside spot, where he replaces the departed Ron Cox (Green Bay). Vinson Smith must hold off a challenge from Sean Harris at the other outside spot. Nickel linebacker Barry Minter also will make a run at a starting job. Myron Baker is another versatile backup.

CHICAGO BEARS

Dave Wannstedt, Head Coach
Tony Wise, Asst. Head Coach/Offensive Line
Bob Slowik, Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
Ron Turner, Offensive Coordinator.Quarterbacks
Danny Abramowicz, Special Teams
Clarence Brooks, Defensive Line
Ivan Fears, Wide Receivers
Carlos Mainord, Defensive Backs
Willie Peete, Running Backs
Ted Plumb, Tight Ends
Greg Schiano, Defensive Assistant

Secondary

Rookie Walt Harris, the fastest Bear at mini-camp, immediately moves into a starting spot at right cornerback, replacing Jeremy Lincoln and Kevin Miniefield, who will vie with James Burton and Kenny Gales for reserve and nickel jobs. Left cornerback Donnell Woolford is coming off a hip injury and is expected to return to Pro Bowl form. Strong safety Marty Carter should feel more comfortable in his second year with the Bears. He led the team with 158 tackles and hopes he gets more help. Free safety Mark Carrier went without an interception and has only eight in five years since leading the league with 10 as a rookie. Backing up are John Mangum, Anthony Marshall, and Dwayne Joseph.

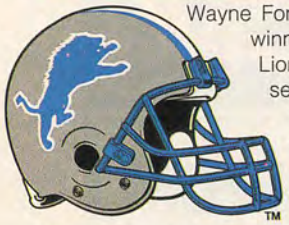
Room for Improvement

Improvement in special teams is a must if the Bears are to contend. Last year's second-round punter, Todd Sauerbrun, finished a disappointing last in the league after sensational previews. Veteran kicker Kevin Butler, the team's only holdover from the 1985 champions, connected on only two of six field goals from more than 40 yards. Overall, he hit 23 of 31 attempts and scored 114 points. Engram will offer instant improvement in kick returns.

MATTHEW STOCKMAN / ALLSPORT USA

Detroit Lions

Barry Sanders is just the second player ever to run for 1,000 yards in each of his first seven seasons.



Wayne Fontes became the winningest coach in Lions' history last season. Trouble is, five more losses and he is also the losingest coach in Lions' history. In Detroit, fans tend to keep track of the latter more than the former.

Wayne's Whirl

Win or lose, Fontes can't seem to win. He starts the 1996 season on the hottest seat in the NFL, with a mandate from owner William Clay Ford to get past the first round of the playoffs that has tripped up the Lions three years in a row. To some observers, Fontes will be fortunate to last until the playoffs, but that pessimism may be left over from last year, when Fontes fooled everybody with his greatest Houdini act yet.

After a 3-6 start, Ford issued a playoffs-or-else order. So the Lions ran the table, winning seven in a row as their No. 1-ranked offense looked unstoppable. But they lost playoff game No. 1 to the Eagles by the wild score of 58-37. It was a stunning defeat, undoing everything the Lions had accomplished during their remarkable run. When Ford said Fontes would be back this year, the reaction in Detroit was not joyous.

In a quest for more speed on defense, the Lions let linebacker Chris Spielman get away to the Buffalo Bills in free agency. Spielman was in many ways the glue that held a volatile team together. Likewise, the Lions said good-by to offensive leader Lomas Brown, their long-time Pro Bowl left tackle. Somehow the addition by subtraction doesn't add up.

Great Scott

If the Lions are to thrive again, their offense will have to carry them again. That means quarterback Scott Mitchell will have to prove his outstanding season was no fluke. Mitchell finished third in the league in touchdown passes, with 32, breaking the team record held by Bobby Layne, who threw 26 in four fewer games.

Surrounded by great skill players, Mitchell did a great job of distributing the ball and keeping everyone happy. It wasn't until nearly midseason that the Lions decided to make the three wide-receiver set their basic offense, but when they did, Mitchell found the open targets consistently. He threw only 12 interceptions. In the playoff game, however, Mitchell turned wild and was benched by Fontes in favor of backup Don Majkowski, not a happy memory for a team that wants to build on the positives.

Detroit Catches On

Wide receivers Herman Moore and Brett Perriman set the NFL record with an astonishing 231 catches between them. It was amazing that Mitchell found third receiver Johnnie Morton 44 times and still had time to hit Barry Sanders 48 times. This year, the Lions plan to utilize tight end David Sloan more, but how he might fit into an already overcrowded cast is difficult to imagine. The Lions became the first to have a quarterback throw for more than 4,000 yards and have a receiver catch for more than

1,500 yards and a running back rush for 1,500 yards, all in the same year. To add to the firepower, the Lions traded for Denver's Glyn Milburn, a little receiver/running back/return specialist.

Sanders' Kernel

Sanders gained an even 1,500 yards for his seventh straight 1,000-yard season, putting him over the 10,000 mark. He joined Eric Dickerson as the only backs to break the 1,000-yard mark in each of their first seven pro seasons. That he failed to break 100 for the last five games, including the playoff, was a minor blip in the big picture. Sanders' 48 catches were a career high and added yet another dimension to the attack. The Lions would love to have defenses start ignoring Sanders to stop Moore and Perriman. Backup Eric Lynch is back after missing most of last season with a stress fracture. Cory Schlesinger and Ron Rivers are second-year special-teamers.

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
48	Beer, Thomas	RB	6-2	237	28	Wayne St.
36	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	221	30	Miami
96	Bonham, Shane	DT	6-2	275	26	Tennessee
27	Borgella, Jocelyn	CB	5-10	180	25	Cincinnati
57	Boyd, Stephen	LB	6-1	247	24	Boston College
94	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	236	33	LSU
77	Compton, Mike	C	6-6	297	26	West Virginia
76	Conover, Scott	T	6-4	276	28	Purdue
94	Elliss, Luther	DT	6-5	291	24	Utah
53	Glover, Kevin	C	6-2	282	34	Maryland
4	Hanson, Jason	K	5-11	183	27	Washington St.
92	Heinrich, Josh	DE	6-7	260	25	Northeastern
66	Hempstead, Hessley	G	6-1	295	25	Kansas
25	Jeffries, Greg	CB	5-9	184	25	Virginia
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	230	34	Virginia Tech
70	Jones, Jeff	T	6-6	310	25	Texas A&M
52	Kowalkowski, Scott	LB	6-2	228	28	Notre Dame
55	London, Antonio	LB	6-2	234	26	Alabama
26	Lynch, Eric	RB	5-10	224	27	Grand Valley St.
1	Majkowski, Don	QB	6-3	208	33	Virginia
39	Malone, Van	S	5-11	186	27	Texas
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	34	Delta State
10	McCorvey, Kez	WR	6-0	180	25	Florida State
47	McNeil, Ryan	CB	6-2	192	26	Miami
22	Milburn, Glyn	RB	5-8	177	26	Stanford
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB	6-6	230	29	Utah
84	Moore, Herman	WR	6-3	210	27	Virginia
87	Morton, Johnnie	WR	5-11	190	25	USC
71	Moss, Zefross	T	6-6	324	30	Alabama State
80	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	31	Miami
91	Porcher, Robert	DT	6-3	283	27	S. C. State
31	Raymond, Corey	CB	5-11	185	27	LSU
28	Rice, Ron	S	6-1	206	24	Eastern Michigan
34	Rivers, Ron	RB	5-8	205	25	Fresno State
73	Roberts, Ray	T	6-6	308	28	Virginia
76	Roberts, William	G	6-5	292	34	Ohio State
3	Royals, Mark	P	6-5	215	32	Appalachian St.
20	Sanders, Barry	RB	5-8	203	28	Oklahoma St.
30	Schlesinger, Cory	RB	6-0	230	25	Nebraska
97	Scroggins, Tracy	LB	6-2	255	27	Tulsa
62	Semple, Tony	G	6-4	286	26	Memphis
86	Sloan, David	TE	6-6	254	25	New Mexico
77	Smothers, Howard	T	6-3	285	23	Beth-Cookman
11	Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	197	32	Georgia Tech
98	Thomas, Henry	DT	6-2	277	32	LSU
29	Vanhorse, Sean	CB	5-10	180	28	Howard
95	Wells, Mike	DT	6-3	287	26	Iowa
21	Williams, Allen	RB	5-9	202	24	Maryland
44	Woodley, Richard	CB	5-9	180	25	TCU

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Brown, Reggie	LB	6-2	232	Texas A&M
1	Hartings, Jeff	OG	6-3	283	Penn State
3	Stewart, Ryan	S	6-1	200	Georgia Tech
4	Ford, Brad	CB	6-1	185	Alabama
5	Waldrop, Kerwin	DT	6-5	257	Central State

Unquiet Front

The Lions are in a rebuilding mode up front. They signed Ray Roberts from Seattle to replace Brown, but Roberts has a long way to go to reach Brown's level. They drafted Penn State's Jeff Hartings in the first round to play either guard or center, and there are plenty of openings. They lost guard Doug Widell to Indianapolis and cut David Lutz. Center Kevin Glover's contract status is unclear. Zefross Moss is the right tackle and Mike Compton looks like a starter at either guard or center. Otherwise, it's first come, first served. Hartings looks like a sure thing wherever he lines up. Tony Semple, Jeff Jones, Scott Conover, and Hessley Hempstead are backups.

DETROIT LIONS

Wayne Fontes, Head Coach
Paul Boudreau, Offensive Line
Done Clemons, Linebackers
Jim Eddy, Defensive Coordinator
John Fontes, Defensive Backs
Mo Forte, Running Backs
Bert Hill, Strength & Conditioning/ Defensive Assistant
Steve Kazor, Tight Ends/Offensive Assistant
Greg Landry, Quarterbacks
Dave Levy, Assistant Head Coach
Tom Moore, Offensive Coordinator
Frank Novak, Special Teams
Charlie Sanders, Receivers
John Teerlinck, Asst. Head Coach/Defense
Howard Tippett, Outside Linebackers

The Line on the Lions

The defensive line is in similar transition as the Lions scramble with new combinations to surround tackle Henry Thomas. Fontes was forced to fire defensive coordinator Herb Paterra and replace him with Jim Eddy after the front seven were playing attack football and the secondary was playing soft for much of last season. After finishing his rookie season with no sacks, Luther Elliss is expected to move from left end to tackle, switching with Robert Porcher. Tracy Scroggins is the right end, with Mike Wells, Shane Bonham, and fifth-round rookie Kerwin Waldrop fighting for time. Thomas had his best year with 10 1/2 sacks, somehow avoiding double teams to win the club defensive MVP honors. Scroggins had 9 1/2 sacks.

Changes at Linebacker

Mike Johnson is the only returning starter at linebacker, as Antonio London is slated to replace Tracy Hayworth and ex-Giant Michael Brooks was signed to replace Spielman. But the Lions might want to find room for No. 1 draft choice Reggie Brown of Texas A&M. The fastest linebacker in the draft, Brown can cover and cause problems in the pass rush. Since the Lions traded up to get him, he is unlikely to sit on the bench long. Scott Kowalkowski is a veteran backup.

Speed in the Secondary

Changes in the secondary also are designed to improve speed. Losing safety Willie Clay and his eight interceptions to the Patriots isn't exactly what they had in mind, but third-year man Van Malone should be ready to step in. To protect against the loss of hard-hitting safety Bennie Blades, the Lions drafted hard-hitting safety Ryan Stewart of Georgia Tech, and have second-year man Ron Rice in reserve. At cornerback, Ryan McNeil and Corey Raymond are the starters with Sean Vanhorse, Jocelyn Borgella, Richard Woodley, and skinny fourth-rounder Brad Ford of Alabama as backups. The Lions could use more depth as well as speed in the secondary, especially in a division that lives by the pass.

Kicking Game

Jason Hanson hit 28 of 34 field goals and can still boom kickoffs. Mark Royals had an average year punting. Milburn was brought in to give the team its first return threat since Mel Gray.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Hanson, 132 points on 48 extra points and 28 field goals 2nd
RUSHING—Sanders, 1,500 yards on 314 carries, 4.8 avg., 11 TDs 2nd
PASSING—Mitchell, 346 of 583 attempts for 4,338 yards and 32 TDs 5th
RECEIVING—Moore, 123 receptions for 1,686 yards, 13.7 avg., 14 TDs 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Clay, 8 for 173 yards, 21.6 average 2nd
PUNTING—Royals, 57 punts, 42.0 avg., longest 69 yards 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Morton, 7 for 48 yards, 6.9 average .....unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Rivers, 19 for 420 yards, 22.1 average .....unranked
SACKS—Thomas, 10.5 sacks.....T8th

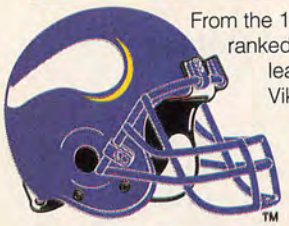
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	NEW ORLEANS (N)
	9	WASHINGTON (N)
	17	At Houston
	23	At Cincinnati (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Minnesota	10-20
	8	TAMPA BAY	27-24
	15	At Philadelphia	
	22	CHICAGO	27-7
	29	At Tampa Bay	37-10
October	6	ATLANTA	22-34
	13	At Oakland	
	20	Open Date	
	27	N.Y. GIANTS	
November	3	At Green Bay	21-30
	11	At San Diego (N)	
	17	SEATTLE	
	24	At Chicago	24-17
	28	KANSAS CITY	
December	8	MINNESOTA (N)	44-38
	15	GREEN BAY	24-16
	23	At San Francisco (N)	27-24

Minnesota Vikings



From the 1993 defense that ranked No. 1 in the league, the only Viking left is tackle John Randle. If you don't think free agency and the salary cap make a difference, consider the Vikings. A 91 percent turnover in three seasons is not the conventional way to build cohesion. The numbers don't count coach Dennis Green's trusty defensive coordinator, Tony Dungy, now head man in Tampa Bay.

Starting Over

Randle's loneliness could get worse this season unless several young players step up fast. Randle could be surrounded by two rookies and a second-year player on the defensive line. Green isn't shy about thrusting youth into his lineup. He had four rookies starting last year, so first- and second-rounders Duane Clemons and James Manley figure to see plenty of opportunity as soon as they report. Green didn't make the playoffs for the first time in his four seasons as head coach, but it wasn't because the Vikings are getting old.

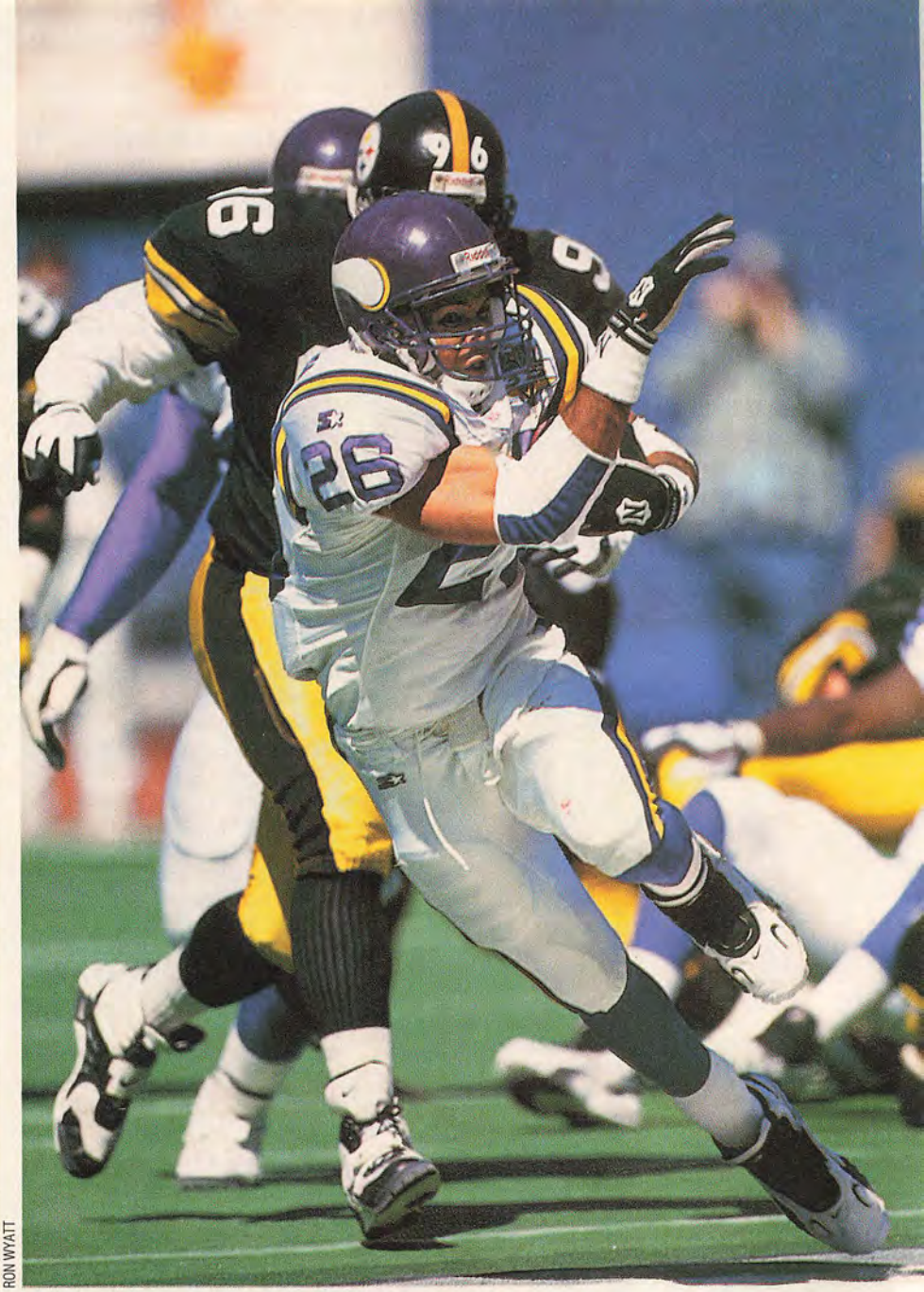
If they need an excuse, here's one: The starters missed 42 games because of injury. By contrast, Green Bay's regulars missed only nine games. One starter who missed none was veteran quarterback Warren Moon, the first Viking quarterback since 1979 to start all 16 weeks.

Moon Shines

Despite his age, Moon is coming off one of the best seasons. His 33 touchdown passes were second in the league to Green Bay's Brett Favre. Moon got better as he got older, throwing 23 touchdown passes and only five interceptions over the last half of the season. With the burden of a trial over domestic problems behind him, Moon is expected to pick up where he left off. Although he turns 40 in November, Moon is on the verge of surpassing every quarterback who played well at an advanced age, including George Blanda and Sonny Jurgensen. Brad Johnson is the only backup with any NFL snaps. Chad May is the second-year quarterback on the roster.

Catching On

Pitch and catch is what the Vikings do best. Another player who is getting better is Cris Carter, whose back-to-back 122-catch seasons are unprecedented. Carter's 17 touchdown receptions were 10 more than he had in 1994 and led the league. Disappointed



RON WYATT

A threat to score on every play, Robert Smith led the Vikes in rushing despite missing seven games with a bad ankle.

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Reveiz, 122 points on 44 extra points and 26 field goals T4th

RUSHING—Smith, 632 yards on 139 carries, 4.5 avg., 5 TDs 15th

PASSING—Moon, 377 of 606 attempts for 4,228 yards and 33 TDs.....6th

RECEIVING—Carter, 122 receptions for 1,371 yards, 11.2 avg., 17 TDs.....T2nd

INTERCEPTIONS—Thomas, 9 for 108 yards, 12.0 average, 1 TD.....1st

PUNTING—Saxon, 72 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 60 yards.....11th

PUNT RETURNS—Palmer, 26 for 342 yards, 13.2 average 1st

KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 42 for 1,037 yards, 24.7 average 2nd

SACKS—Randle, 10.5 sacks T8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	SAN DIEGO (N)
	8	BUFFALO (N)
	19	At Miami (N)
	23	At New Orleans (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	DETROIT	20-10
	8	At Atlanta	
	15	At Chicago	14-31
	22	GREEN BAY	27-24
	29	At N.Y. Giants	
October	6	CAROLINA	
	13	At Tampa Bay	17-20
	20	Open Date	
	28	CHICAGO (N)	6-14
November	3	KANSAS CITY	
	10	At Seattle	
	17	At Oakland (N)	
	24	DENVER	
December	1	ARIZONA	30-24
	8	At Detroit (N)	38-44
	15	TAMPA BAY	31-17
	22	At Green Bay	21-38

1996 is the year the Vikings will return to the top of the Central Division!

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with Moon for not enabling him to pass Detroit's Herman Moore in the final game, Carter finished one catch shy of Moore, who broke Carter's league record.

Carter could be even more effective this year as the Vikings attempt to diversify their attack. Jake Reed's 72 catches were off his pace of 85 from the previous year and Qadry Ismail's 32 were off his number of 45. Likewise, the tight ends caught fewer passes. That's because running back Amp Lee increased his receptions from 45 to 71 as Moon developed patience and found outlet receivers.

David Palmer, who led the league in punt returns, is expected to make a significant contribution in the passing game this year provided offensive coordinator Brian Billick can make room in the game plan for a game-breaker. At tight end, Andrew Jordan is expected to carry a load increased by the welcome departure of Adrian Cooper to San Francisco. Greg DeLong is the backup and a better blocker. The Vikings also took huge 6-5, 280-pound Hunter Goodwin of Texas A&M-Kingsville in the fourth round.

On the Run

What would help Moon most of all is a dependable running attack. Accused of ignoring the run, Green points to injuries that have thus far ruined the career of swift Robert Smith. Despite missing seven games with a bad ankle, the frail Smith led the club with 632 yards. His presence changes the Vikings entirely, because he is a threat to score on every play. His absence, however, is what the Vikings have come to expect. In three seasons, he has rushed only 252 times, hardly the load for a feature back.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Dennis Green, Head Coach
Brian Billick, Offensive Coordinator
Foge Fazio, Defensive Coordinator
Carl Hargrave, Running Backs
John Levra, Defensive Line
Chip Myers, Wide Receivers
Tom Olivadotti, Inside Linebackers
Keith Rowan, Offensive Line
Ray Sherman, Quarterbacks
Richard Soloman, Defensive Backs
Mike Tice, Tight Ends
Trent Walters, Outside Linebackers
Steve Wetzel, Strength & Conditioning
Gary Zauner, Special Teams
Jeff Friday, Asst. Strength & Conditioning

Although Lee is an excellent receiver, he doesn't have the speed to be an every-down rusher. Fullback-type Scottie Graham always plays well when called upon, which is usually in December. Charles Evans is a fullback. Second-year prospects James Stewart and Bobby Phillips will get long looks to see if they can become the next Terry Allen. Most intriguing is rookie Moe Williams of Kentucky, a big-time producer who led the SEC in rushing as a third-year junior and came out early. The Vikings even compare his style to Allen's.

Line Stability

After considerable shuffling, the offensive line appears set and steady. Thrown into the fire as the second-youngest player in the league, right tackle Korey Stringer replaced the injured Chris Hinton and quickly lived up to his billing. Left tackle Todd Steussie has started every game as a Viking and Jeff Christy begins his third year at center. John Gerak started the last six games of 1995 and established himself at right guard. That leaves left guard Randall McDaniel, a first-team All-Pro for the seventh straight year. Everett Lindsay and David Dixon are backups with experience.

Interior Rush

Randle's defense won't be bad as long as Randle is in it. Over the past five seasons, he has led NFL interior rushers with 57 1/2 sacks. Only ends Leslie O'Neal (63), Reggie White (62), and Neil Smith (61) have more. Without Henry Thomas beside him last year, Randle's sacks decreased from 13 1/2 to 10 1/2, still significant production. But a man can't keep losing his friends and neighbors and feel good about it.

Losing left end Roy Barker to the 49ers leaves Fernando Smith as the heir apparent, but the addition of Clemons and Manley signal an overhaul. Right end Derrick Alexander, last year's No. 1 pick, was limited by a late signing and registered only two sacks while starting the final 12 games. Randle's sidekick at nose tackle, Esera Tuaolo, played fairly well in place of Thomas but is recovering from an Achilles injury. Pass rusher Martin Harrison came on with five sacks in the final four games, so he figures in the mix. Clemons is a 6-5, 260-pounder who played better at linebacker in college at Cal but looks like he can grow into a pro end. He could move Alexander to the left side. Vanderbilt's 315-pound Manley already has grown into the prototype nose tackle.

Fitting In

A knee injury cost middle linebacker Jack Del Rio his job after a good run in Minnesota. He was replaced by the surprising Jeff Brady. Broderick Thomas didn't fit at outside linebacker, just as he didn't fit in Detroit and Tampa Bay and made his way to Dallas. The Vikings were happy to sign free agent Dixon Edwards from the Cowboys in his place and believe Edwards's speed will enable him to play every down. Ed McDaniel is the second-best player on the defense. He led the team with 136 tackles, 19 1/2 for losses. If Clemons is a better linebacker than end, McDaniel or Edwards could move inside.

Youthful Look

The youngest secondary in the league will benefit by better play up front. Free safety Orlanda Thomas led the league with nine interceptions and fellow rookie Corey Fuller won a starting job at cornerback. Second-year corner Dewayne Washington didn't play as well as he did as a rookie and must rebound in 1996. Strong safety Harlon Barnett is the old man at age 28. Donald Frank, Alfred Jackson, and Robert Griffith are the backups.

Special Players

Fuad Reviez set an NFL record with his 31st field goal in a row. Mike Saxon has landed more punts inside the 20 since 1985 than anyone else. Palmer's league-leading punt-return average (13.2 yards) is complemented by Ismail's second-place kickoff average in the NFC (24.7), giving the Vikings very good special teams.

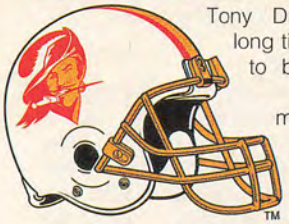
VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
63	Alex, Keith	G	6-4	307	28	Texas A&M
90	Alexander, Derrick	DE	6-4	276	23	Florida State
53	Alipate, Tuineau	LB	6-2	245	29	Washington St.
42	Barnett, Harlon	S	5-11	200	28	Michigan St.
56	Bercich, Pete	LB	6-1	240	25	Notre Dame
50	Brady, Jeff	LB	6-1	238	28	Kentucky
52	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	31	San Diego St.
80	Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	202	31	Ohio State
62	Christy, Jeff	C	6-3	290	28	Pittsburgh
67	Cunningham, Rick	T	6-6	307	30	Texas A&M
85	DeLong, Greg	TE	6-4	245	24	North Carolina
71	Dixon, David	G	6-5	354	28	Arizona St.
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	225	29	Michigan St.
29	Evans, Charles	RB	6-1	232	30	Clark Atlanta
72	Fisk, Jason	DT	6-3	286	24	Stanford
37	Frank, Donald	CB	6-0	192	31	Win-Salem St.
88	Frisch, David	TE	6-7	260	27	Colorado St.
27	Fuller, Corey	CB	5-10	197	26	Florida State
52	Garnett, Dave	LB	6-2	219	26	Stanford
66	Gerak, John	G	6-3	284	27	Penn State
31	Graham, Scottie	RB	5-9	217	28	Ohio State
24	Griffith, Robert	S	5-11	189	26	San Diego St.
99	Harris, James	DE	6-6	255	29	Temple
91	Harrison, Martin	DE	6-6	263	29	Washington
82	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	191	26	Syracuse
25	Jackson, Alfred	CB	6-0	185	29	San Diego St.
14	Johnson, Brad	QB	6-5	221	28	Florida State
89	Jordan, Andrew	TE	6-4	262	25	W. Carolina
32	Lee, Amp	RB	5-11	198	25	Florida State
61	Lindsay, Everett	G	6-4	301	26	Mississippi
5	May, Chad	QB	6-1	219	25	Kansas State
58	McDaniel, Ed	LB	5-11	231	28	Clemson
64	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	274	32	Arizona St.
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	219	40	Washington
68	Morris, Mike	C	6-5	277	36	NE Missouri St.
22	Palmer, David	WR	5-8	167	24	Alabama
30	Phillips, Bobby	RB	5-9	194	27	Virginia Union
93	Randle, John	DT	6-1	272	29	Texas A&I
86	Reed, Jake	WR	6-3	217	29	Grambling
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	227	34	Tennessee
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	205	34	San Diego St.
95	Smith, Fernando	DE	6-6	276	25	Jackson St.
26	Smith, Robert	RB	6-0	206	25	Ohio State
73	Steussie, Todd	T	6-6	304	26	California
28	Stewart, James	RB	6-2	245	25	Miami
77	Stringer, Korey	T	6-4	332	22	Ohio State
43	Thomas, Orlanda	S	6-1	209	24	SW Louisiana
83	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	253	38	Maryland
98	Tuaolo, Esera	DT	6-2	263	28	Oregon St.
7	Walker, Jay	QB	6-3	230	25	Howard
81	Walsh, Chris	WR	6-1	193	28	Stanford
20	Washington, D.	CB	5-11	189	24	N. C. State
97	White, Jose	LB	6-3	261	24	Howard

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Clemons, Duane	DE	6-5	260	California
2	Manley, James	DT	6-2	315	Vanderbilt
3	Williams, Moe	RB	6-0	199	Kentucky
4	Goodwin, Hunter	TE	6-5	280	Texas A&M
5	Boyd, Sean	S	6-3	205	North Carolina
6	Sauer, Craig	LB	6-2	227	Minnesota
7	Merrill, Jon	G	6-4	286	Duke

Tampa Bay Buccaneers



Tony Dungy waited a long time for a chance to become a head coach. He has much in common with his team. The Buccaneers have waited a long time to win. By avoiding a 13th consecutive double-digit losing season last year, fired coach Sam Wyche actually went out on a high note.

Accepting the Challenge

Dungy was hired after the Bucs made runs at Jimmy Johnson and Steve Spurrier. But if Dungy wasn't the team's first choice, that is the least of his problems. He arrives with impeccable credentials and takes over a locker room that allegedly includes some talent, but the unsettled state of the franchise location and stadium deal became yet another hurdle to overcome during an offseason of trying to sign and re-sign free agents. It is difficult to sell players on a future with so many questions unanswered, such as: "Where are we going to play?"

Dungy greeted the challenge head-on, making no apologies and serving up no excuses. "I don't think you can look at a team that won seven ball games as a rebuilding team," Dungy said. "I feel like we're coming into a very good situation. Our goal is to come down here and win. I don't expect the fans to be patient. I don't think they're going to have to live through two or three years of us not winning. We're going to be sound and solid, and we're going to win a lot of ball games."

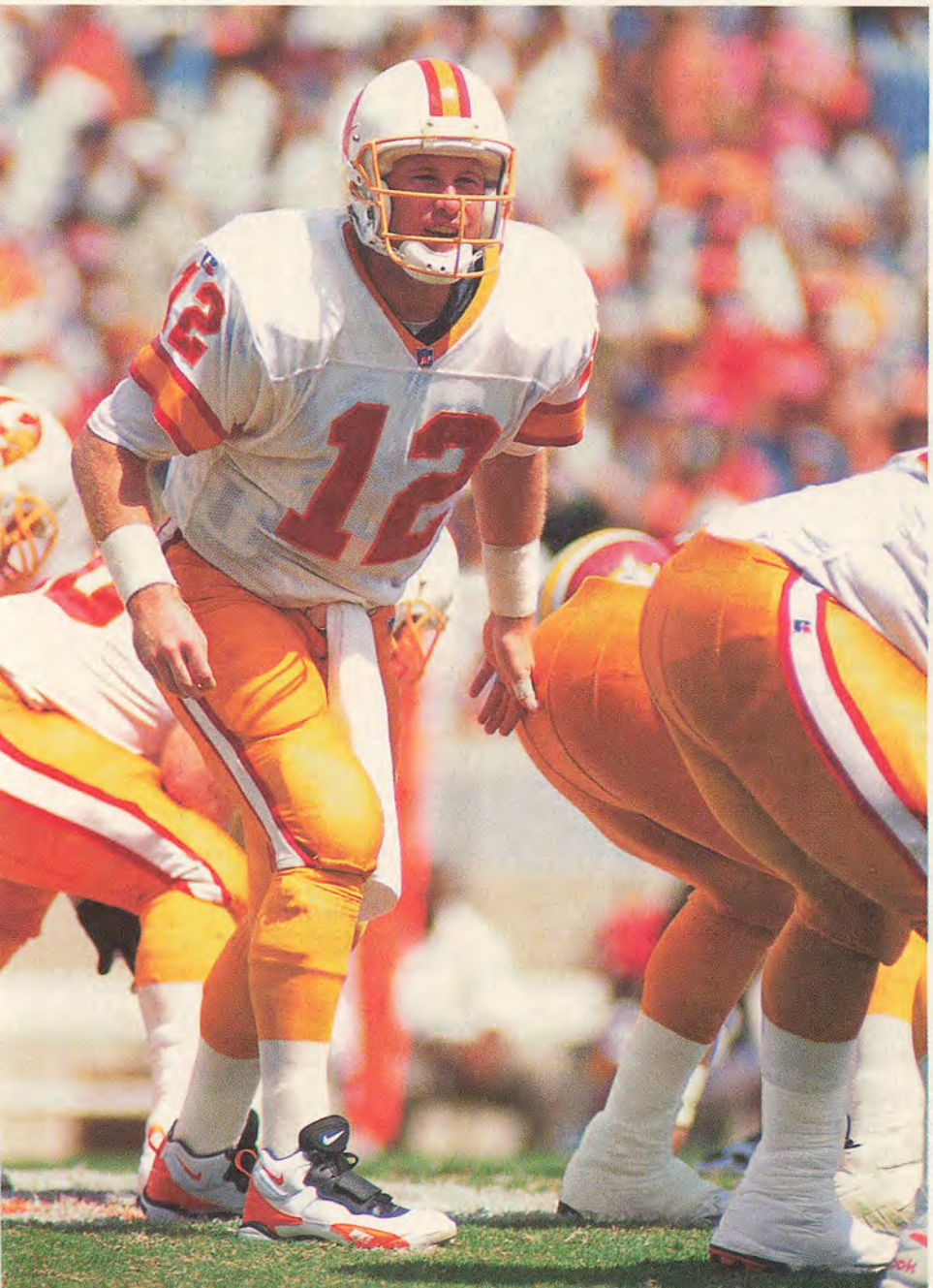
The chances for a playoff run rest largely on quarterback Trent Dilfer, who has plenty of room for improvement.

On Draft

That said, Dungy lost two pretty good defensive tackles in free agency—Santana Dotson to Green Bay and Mark Wheeler to New England—and had to spend both his No. 1 draft choices to do what the Buccaneers have tried to do for years—build a defensive line. And with his only productive running back, Errict Rhett, skipping minicamps while trying to renegotiate a contract, Dungy spent a second-round pick on a fullback.

Passing the Bucs

The chances for Dungy to make a playoff run in his first year rest largely on third-year quarterback Trent Dilfer, who has plenty of room for improvement. While his NFC Central Division counterparts were tearing up the league with touchdown passes (132 among the four of them), Dilfer threw only four. Juxtaposed against 18 interceptions, Dilfer wound up with the league's worst passer rating and argued with Wyche for benching him in the season finale.



JC RIDLEY

1995 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Husted, 82 points on 25 extra points and 19 field goals	17th
RUSHING—Rhett, 1,207 yards on 332 carries, 3.6 avg., 11 TDs	5th
PASSING—Dilfer, 224 of 415 attempts for 2,774 yards and 4 TDs	16th
RECEIVING—Harris, 62 receptions for 751 yards, 12.1 avg., 1 TD	T20th
INTERCEPTIONS—Mayhew, 5 for 81 yards, 16.2 average	T10th
PUNTING—Roby, 77 punts, 42.8 avg., longest 61 yards	4th
PUNT RETURNS—Edmonds, 29 for 293 yards, 10.1 average	5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Edmonds, 58 for 1,147 yards, 19.8 average	16th
SACKS—Dotson, 5.0 sacks	T35th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At Miami (N)
	10	ATLANTA (N)
	17	At Pittsburgh (N)
	23	MIAMI (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	GREEN BAY	13-10
	8	At Detroit	24-27
	15	At Denver (N)	
	22	SEATTLE	
	29	DETROIT	10-37
October	6	Open Date	
	13	MINNESOTA	20-17
	20	At Arizona	
	27	At Green Bay	13-35
November	3	At Chicago	10-31
	10	OAKLAND	
	17	At San Diego	
	24	NEW ORLEANS	
December	1	At Carolina	20-13
	8	WASHINGTON	14-6
	15	At Minnesota	17-31
	22	CHICAGO	6-25

"I think Trent has a lot of things going for him," Dungy said. "I think he has some things you can't coach and I'm looking forward to working with him."

For the things you can coach, the Bucs hired former Bears' assistant Mike Shula as offensive coordinator. Only 31 and without coordinator experience, Shula proves that Shulas do not shy away from challenges. Casey Weldon and Kelly Holcomb are the backups.

Sharing the Load

After gaining 1,207 yards last year, Rhett felt he deserved more money. His 3.6-yard average is below norm, but his 332 carries put him in the workhorse category. The Bucs plan to distribute the carries more this year by ditching the one-back attack for more two-back sets, and drafting classic power back Mike Alstott from Purdue is the first sign that Rhett's role will be divided. Alstott does it all: runs, blocks, and catches. Seattle pickup Tracy Johnson, Jerry Ellison, and Dave Moore are other running backs.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Tony Dungy, Head Coach
Mike Shula, Offensive Coordinator
Monte Kiffin, Defensive Coordinator
Mark Asanovich, Strength & Conditioning
Clyde Christensen, Tight Ends
Chris Foerster, Offensive Line
Joe Marciano, Special Temas
Rod Marinelli, Defensive Line
Tony Nathan, Running Backs
Charlie Williams, Wide Receivers
Ricky Porter, Offensive Assistant

On Target

Tight end Jackie Harris was the Bucs' leading receiver last year, the only tight end in the NFL to lead his team in catches. With big blocker Tyji Armstrong as a counterpart, the Bucs have as good a tandem at that position as there is in the league. Better play at wide receiver would help. Alvin Harper was a disappointment coming from the Cowboys. Although he caught a career-high 46 passes, he scored only twice and didn't make as many big plays as he made among the Dallas superstars. But if the Bucs are to make strides in this area, Harper will have to make them. Lawrence Dawsey is a tough possession receiver. Horace Copeland was the deep threat with a 17.3-yard average on 35 catches. Re-signing Courtney Hawkins helps, giving Dilfer four experienced targets plus Harris. All except Hawkins are over 6-0.

On the Line

The offensive line is in need of some regrouping. Dilfer was sacked 47 times, second only to Arizona's Dave Krieg (53). Charles McRae joined the list of Buccaneer busts among No. 1 draft choices and signed with Oakland. The Bucs' former All-Pro left tackle, Paul Gruber, played with a shoulder injury and was sub-par. The Bucs signed well-traveled reserve Scott Adams from the Bears to fill a hole at right tackle. Adams only blocked for kicks in Chicago. If he can play full-time, Scott Dill is expected to move to left guard. Right guard Ian Beckles and center Tony Mayberry are fixtures at their positions and Gruber is solid when healthy. Pete Pierson, Jim Pyne, and Stephen Ingram are reserves. Fourth-round draft choice Jason Odom of Florida has played both tackles and will get every opportunity to move right into the lineup.

Front Four

After considering a blockbuster trade for Arizona defensive tackle Eric Swann, the Bucs stayed with their draft choices and hope their luck changes. Their 1993 No. 1 pick, right end Eric Curry, registered his only two sacks of last season in the final game and probably will move to the left side to replace Chidi Ahanotu. But it depends on the quick development of No. 1 draft pick Regan Upshaw of California. Pinning hopes on draft choices, even high ones, to make a dramatic difference in the pass rush is always risky business.

Warren Sapp, last year's No. 1 pick, did not play at tackle as well as advertised and expects a much better sophomore season. The Bucs made North Carolina's Marcus Jones their second No. 1 pick this year to team with Sapp, so the front four will be young if nothing else. Brad Culpepper shared playing time with Wheeler last year. Herman Smith is another backup.

Defensive Core

The Bucs re-signed Hardy Nickerson at middle linebacker to keep the core of their defense intact. Nickerson was in on 64 more tackles than anybody else on the defense, an unusual gap. New defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin will try to get more people involved. Second-year man Derrick Brooks made as many plays as any other rookie outside linebacker last season and Lonnie Marts played well at the other outside position. Demetrious DuBose, Ed Brady, Wardell Rouse, and Darnell Stephens provide the depth, but Rouse and Stephens are only second-year men.

Youth Corps

Dungy isn't afraid of youth anywhere on defense. His Vikings had three rookies starting last season, including two in the secondary. The Bucs finished last season with rookies Tony Bouie and Melvin Johnson as the starting safeties because of injuries to John Lynch and Barney Bussey. The Bucs drafted three defensive backs, starting with East Tennessee State's Donnie Abraham, a corner who will vie for playing time with second-year men Jerry Wilson and Clifton Abraham behind starters Martin Mayhew and Charles Dimry. Tony Stargell, last year's nickel back, could get pushed. Reserve safeties are Todd Scott, Thomas Everett, and Kenneth Gant.

Kicking Game

Michael Husted has the kind of kicking leg that makes coaches drool. He was 8 for 12 beyond 40 yards and perfect in three attempts over 50. Punter Reggie Roby remains effective at age 35. Bobby Joe Edmunds made a remarkable comeback as a return man.

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
26	Abraham, Clifton	CB	5-9	184	25	Florida State
72	Adams, Scott	T	6-5	305	30	Georgia
72	Ahanotu, Chidi	DE	6-2	288	26	California
86	Armstrong, Tyji	TE	6-4	262	26	Mississippi
62	Beckles, Ian	G	6-1	304	29	Indiana
23	Bouie, Tony	S	5-10	187	24	Arizona
53	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	238	35	Illinois
55	Brooks, Derrick	LB	6-0	229	24	Florida State
88	Copeland, Horace	WR	6-3	202	26	Miami
68	Crisman, Joel	G	6-5	300	26	USC
73	Culpepper, Brad	DT	6-1	270	28	Florida
75	Curry, Eric	DE	6-5	270	27	Alabama
80	Dawsey, Lawrence	WR	6-0	192	29	Florida State
12	Dilfer, Trent	QB	6-4	235	25	Fresno State
76	Dill, Scott	T	6-5	295	31	Memphis
39	Dimry, Charles	CB	6-1	176	31	UNLV
93	DuBose, D.	LB	6-1	240	26	Notre Dame
37	Ellison, Jerry	RB	5-10	194	25	UT-Chattanooga
22	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	185	31	Baylor
29	Gant, Kenneth	S	5-11	189	30	Albany State
74	Gruber, Paul	T	6-5	296	32	Wisconsin
82	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-4	214	28	Tennessee
81	Harris, Jackie	TE	6-4	248	29	NE.Louisiana
85	Hawkins, Courtney	WR	5-9	183	27	Michigan St.
5	Husted, Michael	K	6-0	188	27	Virginia
64	Ingram, Stephen	T	6-4	311	26	Maryland
97	Jackson, Tyoka	DE	6-2	266	25	Penn State
25	Johnson, Melvin	S	6-0	195	25	Kentucky
43	Johnson, Tracy	RB	6-0	242	30	Clemson
30	Lester, Fred	RB	6-0	245	25	Alabama A&M
89	Marshall, Marvin	WR	5-10	175	25	S. C. State
51	Marts, Lonnie	LB	6-2	236	28	Tulane
61	Mayberry, Tony	C	6-4	292	29	Wake Forest
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	178	31	Florida State
21	McGruder, Michael	CB	5-10	182	33	Kent State
72	Mills, Lamar	DE	6-5	307	26	Indiana
76	Moore, Darryl	G	6-3	293	28	Texas-El Paso
83	Moore, Dave	TE	6-2	248	27	Pittsburgh
56	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	233	31	California
69	Pierson, Pete	T	6-5	295	26	Washington
95	Powe, Keith	DE	6-3	265	28	Texas-El Paso
60	Pyne, Jim	G	6-2	282	25	Virginia Tech
32	Rhett, Errict	RB	5-11	211	26	Florida
1	Roby, Reggie	P	6-3	258	35	Iowa
52	Rouse, Wardell	LB	6-2	231	25	Clemson
15	Ryans, Larry	WR	5-11	182	25	Clemson
99	Sapp, Warren	DE	6-2	281	24	Miami
49	Saunders, Cedric	TE	6-3	240	24	Ohio State
38	Scott, Todd	S	5-11	205	29	SW Louisiana
91	Smith, Herman	DE	6-5	261	26	Portland St.
45	Stargell, Tony	CB	5-11	186	30	Tennessee St.
54	Stephens, Darnell	LB	5-11	253	24	Clemson
87	Thomas, Lamar	WR	6-2	173	27	Miami
11	Weldon, Casey	QB	6-1	206	28	Florida State

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Upshaw, Regan	DE	6-3	249	California
1	Jones, Marcus	T	6-5	264	North Carolina
2	Alstott, Mike	FB	6-1	242	Purdue
3	Abraham, Donnie	CB	6-0	180	Tennessee St.
4	Odom, Jason	OT	6-4	290	Florida
4	Austin, Eric	DB	5-10	203	Jackson St.
5	Maniecki, Jason	DT	6-3	290	Wisconsin
6	Silvan, Nilo	WR	5-8	168	Tennessee
7	Rusk, Reggie	S	5-11	185	Kentucky

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Weekly Prizes

First Place	$ 500
Second Place	$ 150
Third Place	$ 100

Rules

1.Choose one player from each of the 12 boxes below. All players accumulate points for every game played. Select 2 QB's, 1 TE, 1 Kicker, 4 RB's, and 4 WR's. **2.**Reserve roster: Choose five reserve players, one from each position. WR and RB must be from Group III or IV; QB must be from group II. In case of injury or otherwise, you may replace a player from your active roster with a player from your reserve roster an unlimited amount of times. **3.**Free agents may be picked up for $5.00 per player an unlimited amount of times. Requests must be received by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time each Thursday. **4.**Scoring: Passing TD- 3pts; Rushing/Receiving TD- 6pts; Extra Point- 1pt or 2pts; FG- 3pts; Rushing/Receiving YDs- 1pt per 10YDs; Passing- 1pt per 20YDs. **5.**Teams will be ranked according to their total points to determine overall and weekly prizes. Overall prizes will be awarded to the top 100 teams according to their total points. Weekly prizes will be awarded to the top 3 highest scoring teams each week. **6.**Roster changes must be e-mailed, FAXed, or phoned in by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time each Thursday. **7.**Reports will be mailed each week by e-mail, FAX, or regular mail. Please indicate your preferred method below.

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Quarterbacks I

1.	Brett Favre	GB	❑
2.	Steve Young	SF	❑
3.	Dan Marino	MIA	❑
4.	Jeff George	ATL	❑
5.	John Elway	DEN	❑
6.	Jim Harbaugh	IND	❑
7.	Drew Bledsoe	NE	❑
8.	Scott Mitchell	DET	❑
9.	Jeff Blake	CIN	❑
10.	Warren Moon	MIN	❑

Quarterbacks II

1.	Vinnie Testaverde	BAL	❑
2.	Jeff Hostetler	OAK	❑
3.	Stan Humphries	SD	❑
4.	Jim Kelly	BUF	❑
5.	Steve Bono	KC	❑
6.	Neil O'Donnell	NYJ	❑
7.	Troy Aikman	DAL	❑
8.	Jim Everett	NO	❑
9.	Eric Kramer	CHI	❑
10.	Mark Brunell	JAK	❑

Kickers

1.	Pete Stoyanovich	MIA	❑
2.	Jason Elam	DEN	❑
3.	Jason Hanson	DET	❑
4.	Morten Andersen	NO	❑
5.	John Carney	SD	❑
6.	Steve Christie	BUF	❑
7.	Fuad Reveiz	MIN	❑
8.	Norm Johnson	ATL	❑
9.	Matt Stover	BAL	❑
10.	Chris Boniol	DAL	❑

Tight Ends

1.	Kyle Brady	NYJ	❑
2.	Eric Green	MIA	❑
3.	Mark Chmura	GB	❑
4.	Jay Novacek	DAL	❑
5.	Brent Jones	SF	❑
6.	Shannon Sharpe	DEN	❑
7.	Tony McGee	CIN	❑
8.	Ben Coates	NE	❑
9.	Troy Drayton	STL	❑
10.	Jackie Harris	TB	❑

Running Backs I

1.	Emmit Smith	DAL	❑
2.	Barry Sanders	DET	❑
3.	Curtis Martin	NE	❑
4.	Ricky Watters	PHI	❑
5.	Chris Warren	SEA	❑
6.	Marshall Faulk	IND	❑
7.	Thurman Thomas	BUF	❑
8.	Rodney Hampton	NYG	❑
9.	Edgar Bennett	GB	❑
10.	Errickt Rhett	TB	❑

Running Backs II

1.	Mario Bates	NO	❑
2.	Harvey Williams	OAK	❑
3.	Jerome Bettis	PIT	❑
4.	Natrone Means	JAK	❑
5.	Terry Allen	WAS	❑
6.	Derrick Loville	SF	❑
7.	Terrell Davis	DEN	❑
8.	Craig Heyward	ATL	❑
9.	Rashaan Salaam	CHI	❑
10.	Garrison Hearst	ARI	❑

Running Backs III

1.	Erric Pegram	PIT	❑
2.	Robert Smith	MIN	❑
3.	Charlie Garner	PHI	❑
4.	Aaron Hayden	SD	❑
5.	Leroy Hoard	BAL	❑
6.	Ki-Jana Carter	CIN	❑
7.	Terry Kirby	MIA	❑
8.	Bernie Parmalee	MIA	❑
9.	Marcus Allen	KC	❑
10.	Darick Holmes	BUF	❑

Running Backs IV

1.	Lawrence Phillips	STL	❑
2.	Harold Green	CIN	❑
3.	Napoleon Kaufman	OAK	❑
4.	Dave Meggett	NE	❑
5.	Tim Biakabatuka	CAR	❑
6.	Tyrone Wheatley	NYG	❑
7.	Eddie George	HOU	❑
8.	Greg Hill	KC	❑
9.	William Floyd	SF	❑
10.	Larry Centers	ARI	❑

Reserve Roster

QB. _____
TE. _____
Kick. _____
RB. _____
WR. _____

Wide Receivers I

1.	Jerry Rice	SF	❑
2.	Michael Irvin	DAL	❑
3.	Andre Rison	BAL	❑
4.	Tim Brown	OAK	❑
5.	Herman Moore	DET	❑
6.	Carl Pickens	CIN	❑
7.	Cris Carter	MIN	❑
8.	Robert Brooks	GB	❑
9.	Isaac Bruce	STL	❑
10.	Anthony Miller	DEN	❑

Wide Receivers II

1.	Terance Mathis	ATL	❑
2.	Joey Galloway	SEA	❑
3.	Curtis Conway	CHI	❑
4.	Eric Metcalf	ATL	❑
5.	Michael Westbrook	WAS	❑
6.	Yancey Thigpen	PIT	❑
7.	Jeff Graham	NYJ	❑
8.	Irving Fryar	MIA	❑
9.	Brett Perriman	DET	❑
10.	Michael Haynes	NO	❑

Wide Receivers III

1.	Sean Dawkins	IND	❑
2.	Jake Reed	MIN	❑
3.	Alvin Harper	TB	❑
4.	Lake Dawson	KC	❑
5.	Tony Martin	SD	❑
6.	Darnay Scott	CIN	❑
7.	Johnnie Morton	DET	❑
8.	Bill Brooks	BUF	❑
9.	Vincent Brisby	NE	❑
10.	Rob Moore	ARI	❑

Wide Receivers IV

1.	Fred Barnett	PHI	❑
2.	JJ Stokes	SF	❑
3.	Willie Davis	KC	❑
4.	Keyshawn Johnson	NYJ	❑
5.	Terry Glenn	NE	❑
6.	Chris Calloway	NYG	❑
7.	Lake Dawson	KC	❑
8.	Haywood Jeffires	HOU	❑
9.	Michael Jackson	BAL	❑
10.	Tamarick Vanover	KC	❑

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American Football Conference

There was enough player movement to effect the division races. Look for the Supercharged Buffalo Bills to be back on top.

by LARRY FELSER BUFFALO NEWS

Super Bowls may be won by the NFC in January, but in the AFC there is a tradition of flinging laurel wreaths at some conquering-hero-to-be long before Labor Day. Two years ago it was Bill Parcells, who came into New England on a zephyr of enthusiasm. Last year it was Don Shula after the Dolphins spent $19 million on free agents.

This year, conventional wisdom bestows the laurel wreaths on Jimmy Johnson, expecting that he will succeed in Miami in the post-Shula era as he succeeded in Dallas in the post-Tom Landry era. The problem is that conventional wisdom, AFC version, has been getting cut off at the knees.

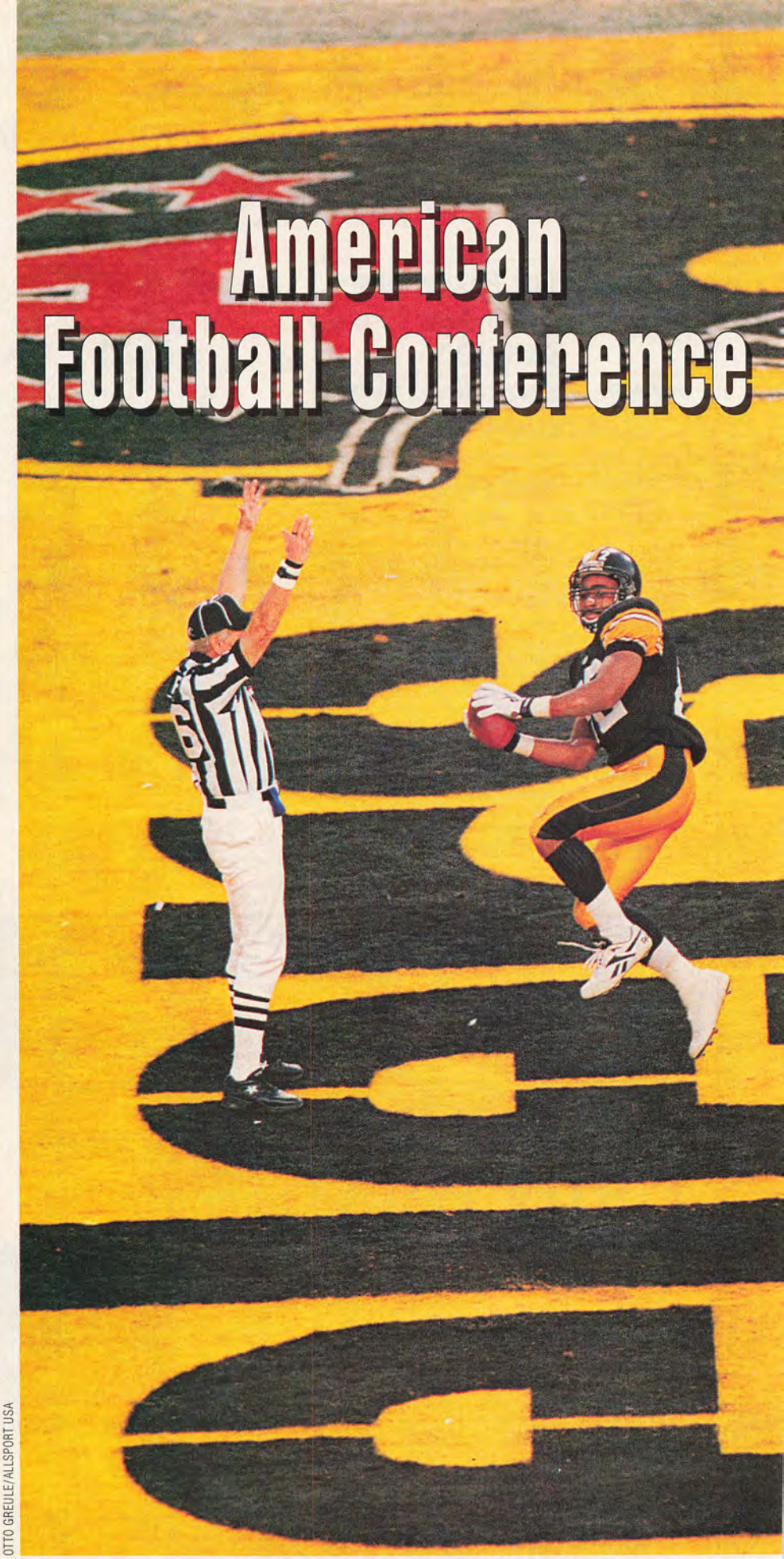
One-Man Gang

Parcells, after an encouraging beginning with the Patriots, fizzled in 1995. So did Shula and his big-name free agents. There is a common thread which Parcells and Shula share with J.J.: the one-man-gang syndrome. All three are accustomed to operating every aspect of the business, from the offensive system employed by the team to the final judgment on talent, as well as everything in between.

In the era of free agency and salary cap, the big-cheese approach doesn't work any longer, even though a number of teams still try it. Miami, with Johnson, is the most prominent in the AFC, along with Denver with Mike Shanahan, Jacksonville with Tom Coughlin, Seattle with Dennis Erickson, and even the woebegone New York Jets with Rich Kotite, whose personally supervised drafts were a disaster in Philadelphia. Two AFC teams, New England and Baltimore, decided after last season that "full control" in the hands of any coach was an idea whose time had passed.

The Patriots shifted final personnel decisions from Parcells to Bobby Grier. The tipoff that Parcells was truly no longer in charge came in April when the Pats signed restricted free agent linebacker Monte Brown from Buffalo for far more than the Bills were willing to pay him. In the draft, the Pats took Tedy Bruschi, Arizona's outstanding defensive end who will be converted to a rush linebacker.

In the past, when acquiring linebackers, Parcells used to have a profile to which he



OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT USA

rigidly adhered. They all had to be at least 6-3 and 250 pounds. His great linebacking crew on the Super Bowl champion New York Giants set the standard. Lawrence Taylor, Carl Banks, Pepper Johnson, Gary Reasons, and even their backups met Parcells' favored profile. Brown, at 5-11, and Bruschi, barely over 6-0, are what Parcells used to call "midgets."

In Baltimore, owner Art Modell opted for division of powers, promoting his one-time star tight end, Ozzie Newsome, to personnel chief. There was recognition in the franchise's new city that while Ted Marchibroda's greatest assets are his ability to deal with players and get them to perform for him, his weakness is judgment of talent. That's what got him fired in Baltimore in 1979 when he coached the Colts.

Conversely, since free agency began, the most successful AFC teams are organizations with strict division of powers: Buffalo, with general manager John Butler and personnel director Dwight Adams in concert with coach Marv Levy; Pittsburgh with director of football Tom Donahoe, and personnel chief Tom Modrak in concert with coach Bill Cowher; Kansas City with GM Carl Peterson and coach Marty Schottenheimer; and San Diego, with GM Bobby Beathard and coach Bobby Ross.

Coaching Changes

When it changed coaches after last season, the AFC leaned toward baseball's long tradition. That is, the vacancies were filled by men with track records as NFL head coaches, just as baseball recycles its managers. Besides the return of Johnson, ex-Green Bay coach Lindy Infante takes over the Indianapolis Colts, who missed the Super Bowl by one failed Hail Mary pass and then promptly fired Marchibroda. After the former Cleveland Browns changed cities, they changed coaches, dumping Bill Belichick and hiring Marchibroda.

There were three major changes of coordinators in the conference which could effect pennant races as much as the signing of big-name free agents. Despite being credited with much of the Steelers' push to the AFC championship, offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt was fired by Cowher. Erhardt barely folded his pink slip when the New York Jets hired him to run their refurbished attack. Belichick was hired as New England's defensive coordinator by his old boss, Parcells. Cowher promoted Chan Galley to replace Erhardt in Pittsburgh.

Free Agents

There was enough significant free-agent movement to effect the division races. Pittsburgh lost quarterback Neil O'Donnell to the Jets and linebacker Kevin Greene to Carolina. Jacksonville also raided the Steelers for All-Pro right tackle Leon Searcy and followed that by signing Green Bay defensive tackle John Jurkovic and acquiring San Diego power back Natrone Means.

Miami lost three defensive starters: controversial linebacker Bryan Cox to the Bears, cornerback Troy Vincent to Philadelphia, and end Marco Coleman to San Diego. Buffalo lost all-star linebacker Cornelius Bennett to Atlanta but raided the NFC for New Orleans receiver Quinn Early and Detroit linebacker Chris Spielman. San Diego lost pass rusher Leslie O'Neal to St. Louis and versatile running back Ronnie Harmon to Houston. The Raiders signed two Dallas starters, defensive tackle Russell Maryland and cornerback and Super Bowl MVP Larry Brown.

Quarterback remains the Steelers' dilemma, but they did rebound in the market by signing offensive lineman Will Wolford of Indianapolis and trading for St. Louis running back Jerome Bettis.

The Draft

On draft day the AFC East put the emphasis on the passing game when its teams selected the four top-rated wide receivers available. The Jets used the No. 1 pick for Keyshawn Johnson of USC, considered the NFL's next great receiver. New England selected Terry Glenn of Ohio State, Indianapolis took Marvin Harrison of Syracuse, and Buffalo tabbed Eric Moulds of Mississippi State.

Last year, Miami lost the AFC East to Miami in a late-season showdown in which the Bills ran for 208 yards. Two weeks later, Buffalo blew the Dolphins out of the playoffs with 341 yards on the ground, the greatest postseason infantry onslaught since the Chicago Bears decimated the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in the 1940 NFL title game.

Consequently, Johnson made Darryl Gardener, Baylor's 6-6, 327-pound defensive tackle more noted for his potential than his production, Miami's first-round draft pick. Gardener will be stationed next to 315-pound Tim Bowens in the Dolphins' line. Johnson also drafted 300-pound Shane Burton of Tennnesee. He already had 330-pound Norman Hand on board. The hefty quartet may constitute a critical mass against the running game.

The AFC rookie crop also includes the most acclaimed college defender, Illinois linebacker Kevin Hardy, taken by Jacksonville, and the Heisman Trophy winner, Ohio State running back Eddie George, now a Houston Oiler.

Individual Honors for '96

Rushing: Curtis Martin, New England
Passing: Neil O'Donnell, New York
Receiving: Joey Galloway, Seattle
Offensive MVP: Jeff Blake, Cincinnati
Defensive MVP: Carnell Lake, Pittsburgh
Offensive Rookie of the Year:
Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis
Defensive Rookie of the Year:
Kevin Hardy, Jacksonville
Coach of the Year: Marv Levy, Buffalo

PREDICTIONS

AFC EAST	AFC CENTRAL	AFC WEST
1. Buffalo Bills	1. Pittsburgh Steelers	1. Kansas City Chiefs
2. Indianapolis Colts	2. Jacksonville Jaguars	2. Seattle Seahawks
3. Miami Dolphins	3. Cincinnati Bengals	3. Oakland Raiders
4. New England Patriots	4. Houston Oilers	4. San Diego Chargers
5. New York Jets	5. Baltimore Ravens	5. Denver Broncos

AFC CHAMPION: Buffalo Bills
Wild Cards: Indianapolis Colts, Seattle Seahawks, Oakland Raiders

1996 ALL-AFC TEAM

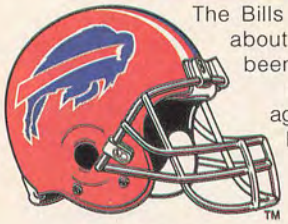
OFFENSE
QB ..Jeff Blake, Cincinnati
RB...Curtis Martin, New England
RB...Natrone Means, Jacksonville
WR..Carl Pickens, Cincinnati
WR..Joey Galloway, Seattle
TE ...Ben Coates, New England
OC ..Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh
OG..Ruben Brown, Buffalo
OG..Will Shields, Kansas City
OT...Richmond Webb, Miami
OT...Leon Searcy, Jacksonville
PK...Norm Johnson, Pittsburgh
KR...Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis

DEFENSE
DE ....Bruce Smith, Buffalo
DE ....Neal Smith, Kansas City
DT ....Dan Saleaumua, Kansas City
DT ....Ted Washington, Buffalo
OLB..Greg Lloyd, Pittsburgh
OLB..Quentin Coryatt, Indianapolis
MLB..Junior Seau, San Diego
CB....Darryl Lewis, Houston
CB....Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
S.....Blaine Bishop, Houston
S.....Carnell Lake, Pittsburgh
P.....Lee Johnson, Cincinnati

CRAIG MELVIN/ SPORTS PHOTO MASTERS

Jim Kelly is the key to Buffalo's season. If the Bills can keep him together again, they could go far.

Buffalo Bills



The Bills are still brooding about what could have been. This time it was the playoff game against the Steelers in Pittsburgh last January when Bruce Smith, their best defensive player, was marked absent because of the flu and a 103-degree temperature. Buffalo cut its deficit to five points early in the fourth quarter and seemed to have the Steelers on the run. Then Neil O'Donnell had enough time to get off a high pass which Yancey Thigpen caught with an acrobatic leap, and another Buffalo dream dissolved.

"If I had been there," said Smith, "we would have won." The Bills think they have done enough this year to get there, that is, all the way back to the Super Bowl, provided there are no 103-degree temperatures in the way.

Regaining the Lead

The Bills made an amazing comeback a year ago after just about everyone had assigned them to the has-been pile. Wade Phillips was hired to put some zest in the pass rush; Bryce Paup, Ted Washington, and Jim Jeffcoat were signed as free agents; and the Bills went from being passive to the leading sackers in the NFL, with 49. They also recaptured their division championship.

Newcomers

This winter they made more helpful moves, signing wide receiver Quinn Early, who caught 163 passes for New Orleans the last two years, and then adding linebacker Chris Spielman, Detroit's happy warrior. On the other hand they lost Cornelius Bennett, probably the best coverage linebacker in the league, to Atlanta.

Spielman gives Buffalo a strength it has been lacking: an ability to shut down the inside running game. Curtis Martin, New

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Christie ,126 points on 33 extra points and 31 field goals 3rd

RUSHING—Thomas, 1,005 yards on 267 carries, 3.8 avg., 6 TDs.....6th

PASSING—Kelly, 255 of 458 attempts for 3,130 yards and 22 TDs 10th

RECEIVING—Brooks, 53 receptions for 763 yards, 14.4 avg., 11 TDs.....T25th

INTERCEPTIONS—Schulz, 6 for 48 yards, 8.0 average, 1 TD T2nd

PUNTING—Mohr, 86 punts, 40.4 avg., longest 60 yards.....13th

PUNT RETURNS—Burris, 20 for 229 yards, 11.5 average 2nd

KICKOFF RETURNS—Holmes, 39 for 799 yards, 20.5 average 17th

SACKS—Paup, 17.5 sacks.....1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	WASHINGTON (N)
	8	At Minnesota (N)
	17	At Carolina (N)
	23	BALTIMORE (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	At N.Y. Giants (N)	
	8	NEW ENGLAND	25-35
	16	At Pittsburgh (N)	
	22	DALLAS	
	29	Open Date	
October	6	INDIANAPOLIS	20-14
	13	MIAMI	23-20
	20	At N.Y. Jets	28-26
	27	At New England (N)	14-27
November	3	WASHINGTON	
	10	At Philadelphia	
	17	CINCINNATI	
	24	N.Y. JETS	29-10
December	1	At Indianapolis	16-10
	8	At Seattle	27-21
	16	At Miami (N)	6-23
	22	KANSAS CITY	

The BILLS Are BACK!

After a one-year hiatus, the Buffalo Bills climbed to the top of the AFC East in 1995, staking their claim as the team to beat in the division. But the Bills aren't satisfied with a division title. They are committed to winning the Super Bowl this season and sporting those "NFL Champion" rings. With free agent newcomers Chris Spielman and Quinn Early teaming up with the NFL's best pass rusher in '95, Bryce Paup, perennial All-Pro Bruce Smith and veteran stars Jim Kelly and Thurman Thomas, the Bills are primed for their drive to Super Bowl XXXI in New Orleans!

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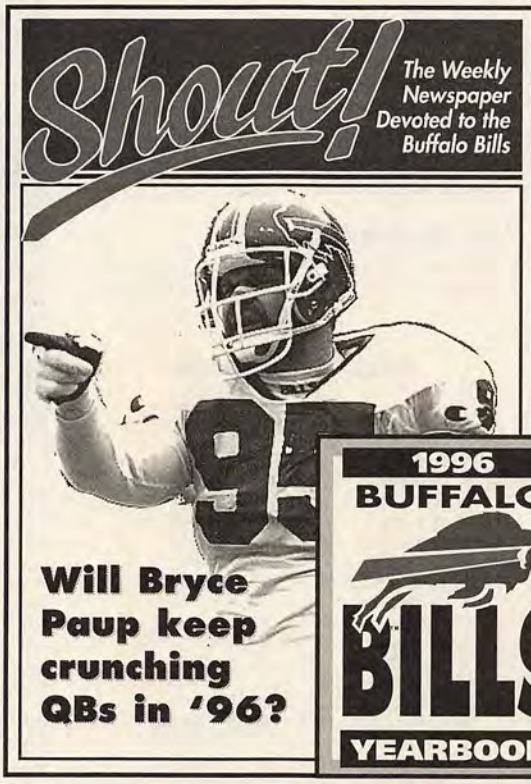

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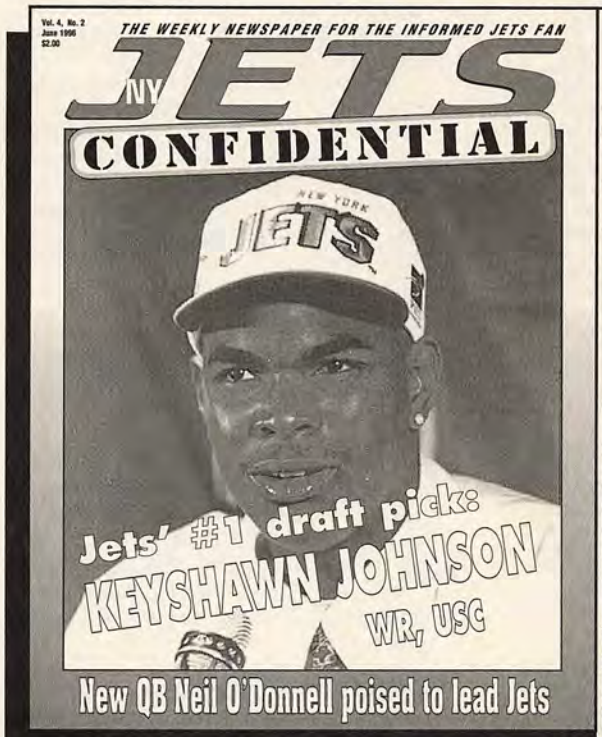

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SS96

England's rookie sensation, battered the Bills twice last year. Buffalo also has to deal with Indianapolis's Marshall Faulk twice a season. This year's schedule includes dates against Emmitt Smith of Dallas, Ki-Jana Carter of Cincinnati, Chris Warren of Seattle, Jerome Bettis of Pittsburgh, and the Giants' duo of Rodney Hampton and Tyrone Wheatley, all essentially tackle-to-tackle runners, an area where Spielman still excels. Spielman has to be lifted on third-down, but Phillips has a backlog of young defensive backs with whom he could arrive at a creative solution.

Solid Core

The newcomers will help, but the Bills still win with their core stars from the Super Bowl seasons: Jim Kelly at quarterback, Thurman Thomas at running back, Bruce Smith at defensive end, special-teams ace Steve Tasker, and an offensive line that has been strengthened on the run.

It was an upset that Kelly played all of the last regular season without injury because he is a still life in the passing pocket. He completed over 55 percent of his passes for 3,130 yards and 22 touchdowns with 13 interceptions. Kelly did suffer a separated sternum and collarbone in the playoff loss to the Steelers. He underwent off-season surgery and says he's pain-free. Kelly is 36 and no more mobile, but he is the key to Buffalo's season. If the Bills can keep him together again, they could go far.

BUFFALO BILLS

Marv Levy, Head Coach
Elijah Pitts, Asst. Head Coach/Running Backs
Tom Bresnahan, Offensive Coordinator/ Offensive Line
Wade Phillips, Defensive Coordinator
Ted Cottrell, Linebackers
Bruce DeHaven, Special Teams
Charlie Joiner, Wide Receivers
Rusty Jones, Strength & Conditioning
Don Lawrence, Offensive Quality Control/ Tight Ends
Chuck Lester, Admin. Asst. to Head Coach/ Asst. Linebackers
Dick Roach, Defensive Backs
Dan Sekanovich, Defensive Line
Jim Shofner, Quarterbacks

All on the Line

The key to Kelly's health is the reupholstered offensive line. The Bills made left tackle John Fina their franchise player in order to keep him. Rookie Ruben Brown was such a success playing next to Fina that at the end of the season, Don Shula called him "the best guard in the league." Ageless center Kent Hull still ranks among the best at his position. Glenn Parker flourished after his move from right guard to right tackle. Jerry Ostroski split right guard with Corbin Lacina most of last season, but Ostroski played well enough to handle the job by himself when it came to the playoffs. The line became dominant in December.

In Passing

The passing game needs refueling. The departed Bill Brooks led the Bills in receiving—and he ranked just 25th in the AFC. Andre Reed, the club's all-time leader in receptions, re-signed in May. The top draft choice was spent on Mississippi State's Eric Moulds. Buffalo could use more help in this department, although Tasker dramatically filled the third-receiver role down the stretch. The coaches feel comfortable with young Lonnie Johnson at tight end after his 49-catch season.

No Doubting Thomas

Thurman Thomas may be past his peak as a runner, but he still finished sixth in the AFC in rushing, with 1,005 yards, most of it in crunch time, then performed nobly in the playoffs. He also averaged 8.5 yards on his 26 receptions. Darick Holmes rushed for 698 yards as Thomas's relief man.

BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
81	Armour, Justin	WR	6-4	221	24	Stanford
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	188	33	Boston U.
79	Brown, Ruben	G	6-3	304	25	Pittsburgh
22	Burris, Jeff	S	5-10	294	24	Notre Dame
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	29	William & Mary
88	Cline, Tony	TE	6-4	251	25	Stanford
15	Collins, Todd	QB	6-4	224	25	Michigan
87	Coons, Rob	TE	6-5	249	27	Pittsburgh
85	Copeland, Russell	WR	6-1	200	25	Memphis
57	Covington, Damien	LB	5-11	236	24	N. C. State
89	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	32	Iowa
41	Evans, Greg	S	6-1	205	26	TCU
70	Fina, John	T	6-4	287	28	Arizona
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	278	29	North Dakota St.
52	Holecek, John	LB	6-2	238	25	Illinois
44	Holmes, Darick	RB	6-0	226	26	Portland St.
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	284	36	Mississippi St.
27	Irvin, Ken	CB	5-10	182	24	Memphis
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DT	6-5	280	36	Arizona St.
84	Johnson, Lonnie	TE	6-3	232	26	Florida State
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	29	Illinois
30	Jourdain, Yonel	RB	5-11	204	26	S. Illinois
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	224	36	Miami
46	Kerner, Marlon	CB	5-10	187	24	Ohio State
68	Lacina, Corbin	G	6-4	297	26	Augustana (SD)
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	268	36	Illinois
72	Louchiey, Corey	T	6-7	305	25	South Carolina
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	29	N. Michigan
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	31	Alabama
64	Nutten, Tom	G	6-4	276	26	W. Michigan
60	Ostroski, Jerry	G	6-4	310	26	Tulsa
74	Parker, Glenn	T	6-5	310	31	Arizona
95	Paup, Bryce	LB	6-5	247	29	Northern Iowa
58	Perry, Marlo	LB	6-4	250	24	Jackson State
75	Philion, Ed	DT	6-3	281	27	Ferris State
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	33	Georgia Tech
92	Price, Shawn	DE	6-5	260	27	Pacific
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	33	Kutztown
59	Rogers, Sam	LB	6-3	245	27	Colorado
24	Schulz, Kurt	S	6-1	208	28	E. Washington
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	34	Virginia Tech
28	Smith, Thomas	CB	5-11	188	26	North Carolina
54	Spielman, Chris	LB	6-0	247	31	Ohio State
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	181	35	Northwestern
82	Thomas, Damon	WR	6-2	215	26	Wayne State
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	31	Oklahoma St.
33	Tindale, Tim	RB	5-10	220	26	West. Ontario
10	Van Pelt, Alex	QB	6-1	219	27	Pittsburgh
92	Washington, Ted	DT	6-4	315	29	Louisville
51	White, David	LB	6-2	235	27	Nebraska

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Moulds, Eric	WR	6-1	202	Mississippi St.
2	Northern, Gabe	OL	6-3	255	LSU
3	Stevens, Matt	CB	6-0	200	Appalachian St.
4	Moran, Sean	DE	6-3	267	Colorado St.
5	Jackson, Raymond	CB	5-9	190	Colorado St.
6	Neal, Leon	RB	5-7	180	Washington
6	Zeigler, Dusty	G	6-4	275	Notre Dame
7	Brandenburg, Dan	DE	6-3	254	Indiana St.
7	Riemersma, Jay	TE	6-1	255	Michigan
7	Smedley, Eric	DB	6-0	204	Indiana

MIKE ALLEN

Sack Time

The Bills doubled their sack total and became the most effective pass-rush team in the game. The key is Paup, who recorded a league-leading 17 1/2 sacks and became the NFL Defensive Player of the Year. With Paup on one side and end Bruce Smith (10 1/2 sacks) on the other, opponents can't overload their blocking schemes. End Phil Hansen also emerged with 10 sacks.

Almost as important as Paup was Washington, the huge nose tackle who tied up traffic in the middle. Paup and Spielman will be joined by inside linebacker Mark Maddox, another knee victim, with Bennett's old spot a fight among Sam Rogers, Marlo Perry, and David White. The draft brings pass rushers Gabe Northern from Louisiana State and Sean Moran from Colorado State

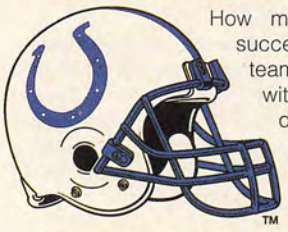
Safety First

The absence of Smith wasn't the only handicap in the playoffs. Injuries erased two regulars in the emerging secondary: strong safety Henry Jones and cornerback Jeff Burris. Kurt Schulz had six interceptions in his first year at free safety. Marlon Kerner was a surprise rookie contributor when he teamed with Thomas Smith on the corners after Burris's knee injury. The Bills also took a stab in the draft, selecting Appalachian State's Matt Stevens despite his reconstructed knee.

Getting Their Kicks

Levy hopes Moulds will put some fizz in the kickoff-return game. If Burris can't handle the punt-return duties, Tasker can. Placekicker Steve Christie converted 31 of 40 field goals after a midseason slump and finished with 126 points, fifth-best in the NFL. Punter Chris Mohr (40.4-yard average) handles the Rich Stadium winds.

Indianapolis Colts



How much does the success of an NFL team, not endowed with enormous individual talent, depend on the chemistry between players and coach? The Indianapolis Colts, who came within one controversial call by an official—plus a near-miss Hail Mary pass—of the Super Bowl, are about to find out.

Back in the Saddle

Ted Marchibroda was still receiving congratulations for his handling of the Colts, who lived on a fragile edge and not only survived but flourished in the playoffs, when he was notified by the club that his services would no longer be needed.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Faulk, 84 points on 14 touchdowns T16th

RUSHING—Faulk, 1,078 yards on 289 carries, 3.7 avg., 11 TDs 5th

PASSING—Harbaugh, 200 of 314 attempts for 2,575 yards and 17 TDs 1st

RECEIVING—Faulk, 56 receptions for 475 yards, 8.5 avg., 3 TDs T20th

INTERCEPTIONS—Daniel, 3 for 142 yards, 47.3 average, 1 TD T16th

Ambrose, 3 for 12 yards, 4.0 average T16th

PUNTING—Gardocki, 63 punts, 42.6 avg., longest 69 yards 7th

PUNT RETURNS—Buchanan, 16 for 113 yards, 7.1 average ..... unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Bailey, 21 for 495 yards, 23.6 average, 1 TD 9th

SACKS—Bennett, 10.5 sacks T6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	vs. New Orleans at Canton, OH
August	3	At Cincinnati (N)
	10	At Houston
	17	SEATTLE (N)
	24	GREEN BAY (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	ARIZONA	
	8	At N.Y. Jets	27-24
	15	At Dallas	
	23	MIAMI (N)	36-28
	29	Open Date	
October	6	At Buffalo	14-20
	13	BALTIMORE (N)	
	20	NEW ENGLAND	10-7
	27	At Washington	
November	3	SAN DIEGO	24-27
	10	At Miami	27-24
	17	N.Y. JETS	17-10
	24	At New England	24-10
December	1	BUFFALO	10-16
	5	PHILADELPHIA (N)	
	15	At Kansas City	
	22	At Cincinnati	21-24

RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT USA

The Colts are likely to travel only as far as quarterback Jim Harbaugh, who had a wonder season in 1995, takes them.

Bill Tobin, the Colts' director of football, seemed to violate the age-old admonition against messing with a good thing when he separated Marchibroda from the team he worked a minor miracle on. Ironically, the man Tobin was expected to elevate to the head job, his brother, Vince, the Colts' defensive coordinator, already had taken the Cardinals' head job when Marchibroda was jettisoned. So Lindy Infante is now the Colts' new coach. He enjoys a strong reputation as an offensive coordinator, but he flunked his previous trial as an NFL head coach in Green Bay.

Coming of Age

Infante and the Colts are likely to travel only as far as Jim Harbaugh, who had a wonder season at quarterback in 1995, takes them. For eight seasons Harbaugh was seen as a journeyman quarterback. When last season began, he had lost his starting job to Craig Erickson. A month later, he was the toast of the NFL. "I'm an ugly player," said Harbaugh, "but at least now I know who I am."

Harbaugh led the AFC in passing, threw for 17 touchdowns, and suffered a mere five interceptions. But he can't be

Sean Dawkins

KEVIN REECE

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Lindy Infante, Head Coach
Tom Batta, Tight Ends/Quality Control
Greg Blache, Defensive Line
Ron Blackledge, Offensive Line
Chuck Bresnahan, Linebackers
Fred Bruney, Defensive Assistant
Charlie Davis, Assistant/Offensive Line
Buddy Geis, Assistant/Quarterbacks
Gene Huey, Running Backs
Jim Johnson, Defensive Coordinator
Hank Kuhlmann, Special Teams
Jimmy Robinson, Wide Receivers
Pat Thomas, Defensive Secondary
Tom Zupancic, Strength & Conditioning

measured by statistics alone. In 1995, he became an updated version of Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton. He ran for 235 yards and a 4.5-yard average, and his poise was an inspiration to his teammates. In the AFC championship game he suffered a dislocated middle finger on his passing hand in the closing minutes but still directed his team 55 yards on the final drive, which ended with the nearly complete Hail Mary heave. In the playoff upset over Kansas City, he led another spectacular late rally against the league's top defense to tie the game.

Back in Business

The amazing part of the drive into the playoffs was that the Colts did it without Marshall Faulk. He is back healthy and likely to improve upon his 1,087 yards, even though the offensive line is altered. Ex-Bear Jay Leeuwenburg is the new center, with ex-Lion Doug Widell and another ex-Bear, Troy Auzenne, at the tackles. The only linemen who don't need to introduce themselves to the rest of the team are Eric Mahlum and Jason Mathews, the guards.

The Colts' Stable

The Colts have built a stable of role players. One is running back Zack Crockett, who had just one carry in his rookie season, then exploded for a 147-yard day in the 35-20 playoff victory over San Diego after Faulk was injured. Another is wide receiver Floyd Turner, who caught the big touchdown pass against Kansas City and the one which put Indy ahead, 16-13, late in the AFC championship game.

Playing for Keeps

Infante's offense is a cautious one. His teams don't give away the ball. The Colts suffered just 11 interceptions and 11 lost fumbles in their 11-victory year. All but three of those victories were by four points or less. Since Faulk led the team with 56 receptions, the ingredients for a control game are there. Iowa tight end Scott Slutzker, mainly a receiver, was drafted to pair with last year's rookie star tight end, Ken Dilger, who caught 42 passes.

The drafting of speedy wide receiver Marvin Harrison and the eventual return of Flipper Anderson from knee surgery should give Infante the capacity to open up, since he already has Sean Dawkins. Harrison played with three different starting quarterbacks in his last three years at Syracuse, but he still managed to catch 20 touchdown passes. One of the fastest rookies coming into the NFL, he returned two punts for touchdowns as a senior and was named the Big East's Special-Teams Player of the Year. He's tough, too. In Syracuse's blowout of Clemson in the Gator Bowl, he caught a touchdown in the first half, broke his thumb, and had another TD in the second half.

Two Tough Tonys

Jim Johnson, who succeeds Vince Tobin, inherits a strong run defense, which allowed just 91.1 yards per game. Only Kansas City and Pittsburgh were stingier in the AFC. What has to be improved is the pass rush, which produced only 29 sacks. The draft brings Steve Martin from Missouri.

The heart of the anti-run defense are the two tough Tonys, 315-pound Tony Siragusa and Tony McCoy, and the linebacker who plays behind them, Jeff Herrod, usually the Colts' leading tackler. The principal pass rusher is right end Tony Bennett, who had 10 1/2 sacks and returned a fumble for a touchdown last season. Johnson needs to get more out of second-year lineman Ellis Johnson and especially from Trev Alberts, who plays the "joker," position, sort of a wild-card linebacker. The Colts spent a fortune to match the offer sheet to which Jacksonville signed Quentin Coryatt, who was a standout in the playoffs. Stephen Grant is the other linebacker.

Meeting the Challenge

Eugene Daniel is 35 now, but a generation of challengers failed to unseat him from his cornerback position. The last, Ashley Ambrose, signed with Cincinnati as a free agent. Daniel still tied with Ambrose for most interceptions on the team, returning one 97 yards for a touchdown. The newest challenger may be Dedric Mathis, a draft sleeper whom the Colts picked in the second round. Jason Belser remains at free safety and David Tate at strong safety.

Nothing Special

Other than Aaron Bailey's 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, there wasn't much special about Indy's special teams. Newcomer Chris Gardocki did provide solid kickoffs and competent punting. Cary Blanchard was successful on 19 of 24 field goals and all 25 extra points.

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
51	Alberts, Trev	LB	6-4	245	26	Nebraska
	Anderson, Willie	WR	6-0	172	31	UCLA
70	Auzenne, Troy	T	6-7	305	28	California
80	Bailey, Aaron	WR	5-10	184	25	Louisville
83	Banta, Bradford	TE	6-6	257	26	USC
29	Belser, Jason	S	5-9	185	27	Oklahoma
56	Bennett, Tony	DE	6-2	242	30	Mississippi
14	Blanchard, Cary	K	6-1	225	28	Oklahoma St.
34	Buchanan, Ray	S	5-9	189	25	Louisville
35	Clarks, Conrad	S	5-10	212	28	NE Louisiana
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB	6-3	246	26	Texas A&M
32	Crockett, Zack	RB	6-2	241	24	Florida State
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	5-11	180	35	LSU
10	Davis, Wendell	WR	5-11	188	31	LSU
87	Dawkins, Sean	WR	6-4	211	26	California
85	Dilger, Ken	TE	6-5	256	26	Illinois
73	Dittman, Seth	T	6-7	273	24	Stanford
69	Dixon, Randy	G	6-3	305	32	Pittsburgh
7	Erickson, Craig	QB	6-2	205	28	Miami
28	Faulk, Marshall	RB	5-10	205	24	San Diego St.
17	Gardocki, Chris	P	6-1	199	27	Clemson
59	Grant, Stephen	LB	6-0	240	27	West Virginia
30	Gray, Derwin	S	5-11	203	26	BYU
27	Groce, Clif	RB	5-11	244	24	Texas A&M
4	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	215	33	Michigan
75	Harper, Shawn	T	6-4	290	28	Indiana
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-0	245	30	Mississippi
25	Humphrey, Ronald	RB	5-10	211	28	Miss. Valley S.
62	Johnson, Ellis	DT	6-2	298	23	Florida
11	Justin, Paul	QB	6-4	202	29	Arizona State
58	Leeuwenburg, Jay	C	6-3	290	28	Colorado
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-4	284	34	Ohio State
65	Mahlum, Eric	G	6-4	290	26	California
79	Mandarich, Tony	T	6-5	310	30	Michigan St.
74	Mathews, Jason	G	6-5	288	26	Texas A&M
61	McCoy, Tony	DT	6-0	282	28	Florida
57	McDonald, Devon	LB	6-4	228	27	Notre Dame
40	McElroy, Ray	CB	5-11	195	24	Eastern Illinois
92	Morrison, Steve	LB	6-3	238	25	Michigan
93	Nunn, Freddie Joe	DE	6-5	258	35	Mississippi
16	Olive, Bobby	WR	6-0	167	28	Ohio State
98	Pelton, Mike	DT	6-2	284	25	Auburn
81	Pollard, Marcus	TE	6-4	248	25	Bradley
97	Radecic, Scott	LB	6-3	243	35	Penn State
98	Siragusa, Tony	DT	6-3	315	30	Pittsburgh
76	Smith, Warner	G	6-2	294	24	Arizona
86	Stablein, Brian	WR	6-1	190	27	Ohio State
79	Staysniak, Joe	G	6-4	292	30	Ohio State
49	Tate, David	S	6-1	212	32	Colorado
88	Turner, Floyd	WR	5-11	199	31	NW Louisiana
71	Vickers, Kipp	T	6-2	288	27	Miami
21	Warren, Lamont	RB	5-11	211	24	Colorado
36	Watts, Damon	CB	5-10	173	25	Indiana
72	West, Derek	T	6-8	303	25	Colorado
95	Whittington, B.	DE	6-6	278	25	Indiana
67	Widell, Doug	T	6-4	280	30	Boston College
94	Wilkins, David	DE	6-4	240	28	Eastern Kentucky
96	Wilmot, Trevor	LB	6-2	220	24	Indiana

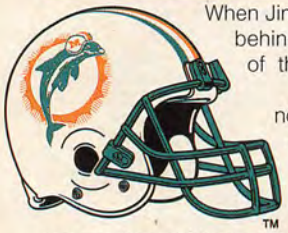
DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Harrison, Marvin	WR	6-0	181	Syracuse
2	Mathis, Dedric	DB	5-11	193	Houston
3	Slutzker, Scott	TE	6-4	245	Iowa
4	Milne, Brian	FB	6-2	230	Penn State
5	Martin, Steve	DT	6-3	284	Missouri
6	Conlin, Keith	OL	6-7	302	Penn State
6	Cawley, Mike	QB	6-1	205	James Madison
7	Robinson, Adrian	S	6-2	216	Baylor
7	Smedley, Eric	DB	6-0	204	Indiana

MITCHELL B. REIBEL

Miami Dolphins

The Dolphins plan major changes on defense. New coach Jimmy Johnson may use waves of linemen, as he did in Dallas.



When Jimmy Johnson was behind the microphone of the Fox network's pregame show, no one was more outspoken, especially about the Miami Dolphins. Early in the season, he said he saw no reason why they shouldn't make it to the Super Bowl. A month later, he was picking them to win the Super Bowl.

Changing of the Guard

Don Shula, the most successful coach in NFL history, could barely keep his nose above the rising expectations Johnson's pronouncements had created. By late January, after the Dolphins finished tied for second in the AFC East and Buffalo had eliminated them from the playoffs, the expectations were over Shula's gray head.

Now that Johnson has succeeded Shula in Miami, he sings different tunes at different times. At the NFL owners' meetings last March, J.J. was his old brash self, proclaiming, "We're the team to beat in the AFC!" At other, quieter times, he suggests that it might take three years for him to put together the sort of Dolphins he wants.

Missing Elements

For those who would compare Johnson's coming to Miami with his coming to Dallas, remember there are two elements missing this time:

1. Mike Lynn in no longer in the NFL. It was the Vikings' former general manager who gave Johnson a fortune in draft choices in exchange for Herschel Walker in one of the most one-sided trades ever in pro football. The Cowboys misfired on almost half the draft picks and still had enough left to create the foundation of a three-time Super Bowl champion.

2. The luck of the draw has not deposited a Troy Aikman on the roster. The year before Johnson arrived in Dallas, the Cowboys shocked their fans with the worst record in the NFL, but it turned out to be superb timing. It was the year that UCLA's super quarterback became draft eligible, and J.J. inherited the future Hall of Famer.

On the Run

It isn't just the absence of a great young quarterback that blurs the comparison with the Dallas teams. Johnson doesn't have anything resembling his superb offensive troika with the Cowboys—Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, and Aikman. In fact, the Dolphins haven't had a reliable running game in some time, and strong running games are a major part of Jimmy Johnson football. Bernie Parmalee was the Dolphins' leading rusher, with 878 yards, a total topped by 19 runners in the league a year ago. Terry Kirby collected 414 yards. The Dolphins averaged 3.6 yards per rush, almost half a yard below the conference norm. Their longest run of the year was 40 yards.

Dan Marino

Miami still has Dan Marino, but he's 35, which means Johnson's Super Bowl clock is ticking. Part of the Dolphins' flabby running game has been Marino's tendency to abandon the run too often and attempt to win the game with his great arm alone. That strategy works quite often, but not often enough. Miami was No. 1 in the AFC in passing offense, as Marino completed over 64 percent of his passes for 3,668 yards and 24 touchdowns, overtaking Fran Tarkenton for the top spot in the league record book.

The Dolphins' top free agent is wide receiver Fred Barnett. The erstwhile Eagle is especially dangerous around the goal line. Tight end Eric Green is another challenge for the new coach's motivating. He missed 39 practices last year and Johnson says, "No practice, no play." O.J. McDuffie caught 62 passes in '95 and

could become more important to Marino. Kirby is best when allowed to function as the pass-catching back. He led the team with 66 receptions. Free agent Charles Jordan brings speed.

Upon Johnson's hiring, Marino vowed to stick with whatever works, including more patience with the running game. But he has said that before. It will be one of the more interesting aspects of the Marino-Johnson relationship to watch.

Free Agency

Johnson didn't have to deal with the ravages of free agency nearly as much in Dallas as he will in Miami. He hadn't been on his new job a month when four starters had defected, including three on defense. One defection solved a problem for the coach: How to deal with Bryan Cox, the undisciplined linebacker. Cox jumped to the Bears. He was followed by the signing of pass rusher Marco Coleman by San Diego and of cornerback Troy Vincent and wide receiver Irving Fryar by Philadelphia. Only the departure of Vincent, considered by Shula as his best defensive player, was mourned by Johnson.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stoyanovich, 118 points on 37 extra points and 27 field goals 5th

RUSHING—Parmalee, 878 yards on 236 carries, 3.7 avg., 9 TDs.....9th

PASSING—Marino, 309 of 482 attempts for 3,668 yards and 24 TDs.....2nd

RECEIVING—Kirby, 66 receptions for 618 yards, 9.4 avg., 3 TDs.....T9th

INTERCEPTIONS—Vincent, 5 for 95 yards, 19.0 average, 1 TD.....T6th

PUNTING—Kidd, 57 punts, 42.7 avg., longest 56 yards.....6th

PUNT RETURNS—McDuffie, 24 for 163 yards, 6.8 average.....11th

KICKOFF RETURNS—McDuffie, 23 for 564 yards, 24.5 average.....7th

SACKS—Cox, 7.5 sacks T17th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	Tampa Bay (N)
	11	At Chicago
	19	MINNESOTA (N)
	23	At Tampa Bay (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	NEW ENGLAND	17-34
	8	At Arizona (N)	
	15	N.Y. JETS	52-14
	23	At Indianapolis (N)	28-36
	29	Open Date	
October	6	SEATTLE	
	13	At Buffalo	20-23
	20	At Philadelphia	
	27	DALLAS	
November	3	At New England	20-3
	10	INDIANAPOLIS	24-27
	17	At Houston	
	25	PITTSBURGH (N)	23-10
December	1	At Oakland	
	8	N.Y. GIANTS	
	16	BUFFALO (N)	23-6
	22	At N.Y. Jets	16-17

The Draft

Johnson's opening draft was a challenge to his motivational abilities. The week before he picked, he identified Baylor's big defensive lineman, Daryl Gardener as "an underachiever who has great potential—but potential can get you fired." On draft day, Johnson couldn't resist the potential. His second pick, Kansas cornerback Dorian Brew, was also an inconsistent talent in college. The best candidate for immediate production is UCLA running back Karim Abdul-Jabbar, who doesn't have special speed but offers unquestioned effort. Another rookie, Stanley Pritchett, could be the blocking fullback Miami is looking for.

Main Line

The line is somewhat shaky, with left guard Keith Sims recovering from a foot injury and battered right tackle Ron Heller near retirement. Center Tim Ruddy had a rough introduction in his first season as a starter. Left tackle Richmond Webb is still the main lineman. Johnson needs production from youngsters Billy Milner, Andrew Greene, and huge James Brown, acquired in a trade with Philadelphia.

Defensive Changes

On defense there will be major changes. Ends Daniel Stubbs and Aaron Jones were signed as free agents. Johnson thinks Jones, a flop so far, could be rejuvenated playing in a 4-3 defense. Gardener will be positioned next to another huge tackle, Tim Bowens, with heavyweights Norman Hand and rookie Shane Burton behind them. Steve Emtman is now an end, where he competes against Jeff Cross and Trace Armstrong. Johnson may use waves of defensive linemen, as he did in Dallas.

Whoever among the linebackers has speed should survive. Aubrey Beavers may answer the description, but a couple of draftees from the Southwest Conference, LaCurtis Jones of Baylor and Zach Thomas of Texas Tech, may have as much chance as anyone. J.B. Brown and Terrell Buckley are the experienced corners, with Gene Atkins, Michael Stewart, and Louis Oliver back at safety.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Jimmy Johnson, Head Coach
Larry Beightol, Asst. Head Coach/Offensive Line
Gary Stevens, Offensive Coordinator
George Hill, Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
Kippy Brown, Running Backs
John Gamble, Strength & Conditioning
Cary Godette, Defensive Line
Pat Jones, Tight Ends
Bill Lewis, Defensive Nickel Package
Mel Phillips, Secondary
Larry Seiple, Wide Receivers
Mike Westhoff, Special Teams
Joel Collier, Defensive Staff Assistant
Rich McGeorge, Offensive Staff Assistant

Solid State

McDuffie had a disappointing year returning punts (6.8-yard average), but averaged 24.5 yards per kickoff return. Place-kicker Pete Stoyanovich (118 points), who had less success on field goals inside the 29-yard line (8-11) than he did on those between 30 and 49 yards (17-18), and punter John Kidd (42.7) provide a solid kicking game.

DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
58	Armstrong, Antonio	LB	6-1	234	23	Texas A&M
93	Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-4	265	31	Florida
28	Atkins, Gene	S	5-11	201	32	Florida A&M
23	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-9	176	28	Miami
86	Barnett, Fred	WR	6-0	200	31	Arkansas St.
53	Beavers, Aubrey	LB	6-3	231	25	Oklahoma
95	Bowens, Tim	DT	6-4	310	24	Mississippi
77	Brothen, Kevin	C	6-1	293	27	Vanderbilt
37	Brown, J.B.	CB	6-0	191	30	Maryland
76	Brown, James	T	6-6	329	27	Virginia St.
16	Buck, Mike	QB	6-3	227	30	Maine
27	Buckley, Terrell	CB	5-9	178	26	Florida State
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	255	33	Ohio State
91	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	280	31	Missouri
15	Dar Dar, Kirby	WR	5-9	183	25	Syracuse
59	Dotson, Dewayne	LB	6-1	256	26	Mississippi
94	Emtman, Steve	DE	6-4	284	27	Washington
86	Green, Eric	TE	6-5	280	30	Liberty
68	Greene, Andrew	G	6-3	304	27	Indiana
96	Hand, Norman	DT	6-3	329	24	Mississippi
74	Hawthorne, Ed	DT	6-1	305	26	Minnesota
89	Hill, Randal	WR	5-11	180	27	Miami
31	Hill, Sean	CB	5-10	179	25	Montana St.
50	Hollier, Dwight	LB	6-2	250	28	North Carolina
38	Jackson, Calvin	CB	5-9	185	24	Auburn
24	Johnson, Pat	S	6-1	204	25	Purdue
97	Jones, Aaron	DE	6-5	267	30	Eastern Kentucky
	Jordan, Charles	WR	5-10	170	26	Long Beach City
17	Kidd, John	P	6-3	214	35	Northwestern
42	Kirby, Terry	RB	6-1	218	27	Virginia
99	Klingbeil, Chuck	DT	6-1	288	31	N. Michigan
52	Kopp, Jeff	LB	6-3	234	25	USC
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	214	33	Miami
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	224	35	Pittsburgh
48	McClinton, Lee	RB	5-11	252	24	New Hampshire
81	McDuffie, O.J.	WR	5-10	188	27	Penn State
67	McGuire, Gene	C	6-2	300	26	Notre Dame
11	McGwire, Dan	QB	6-8	239	29	San Diego St.
79	Milner, Billy	T	6-5	293	25	Houston
70	Moore, Eric	T	6-5	290	32	Indiana
25	Oliver, Louis	S	6-2	224	31	Florida
30	Parmalee, Bernie	RB	5-11	196	29	Ball State
88	Planansky, Joe	TE	6-4	250	25	Chadron St.
61	Ruddy, Tim	C	6-3	290	25	Notre Dame
69	Sims, Keith	G	6-3	309	30	Iowa State
55	Singleton, Chris	LB	6-2	246	30	Arizona
40	Spikes, Irving	RB	5-8	206	26	NE Louisiana
35	Stewart, Michael	S	5-11	202	31	Fresno State
10	Stoyanovich, Pete	K	5-11	195	30	Indiana
93	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	272	32	Miami
82	Wainright, Frank	TE	6-3	245	29	N. Colorado
78	Webb, Richmond	T	6-6	303	30	Texas A&M
87	Williams, Mike	WR	6-0	183	30	Northeastern
85	Williams, Ronnie	WR	6-3	258	31	Oklahoma St.
49	Wilson, Robert	RB	6-0	255	28	Texas A&M

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Gardener, Daryl	T	6-6	320	Baylor
3	Brew, Dorian	DB	5-10	180	Kansas
3	Abdul-Jabbar, Karim	RB	5-10	194	UCLA
4	Pointer, Kirk	CB	5-11	170	Austin Peay
4	Pritchett, Stanley	FB	6-1	232	South Carolina
4	Jones, LaCurtis	LB	6-0	212	Baylor
5	McPhail, Jerris	RB	5-10	200	East Carolina
5	Burton, Shane	DT	6-4	278	Tennessee
5	Thomas, Zach	LB	5-11	233	Texas Tech
6	Wooden, Shawn	DB	5-10	183	Notre Dame
7	Buckey, Jeff	OT	6-4	300	Stanford
7	Hunter, Brice	WR	6-0	214	Georgia

The Miami Dolphins...

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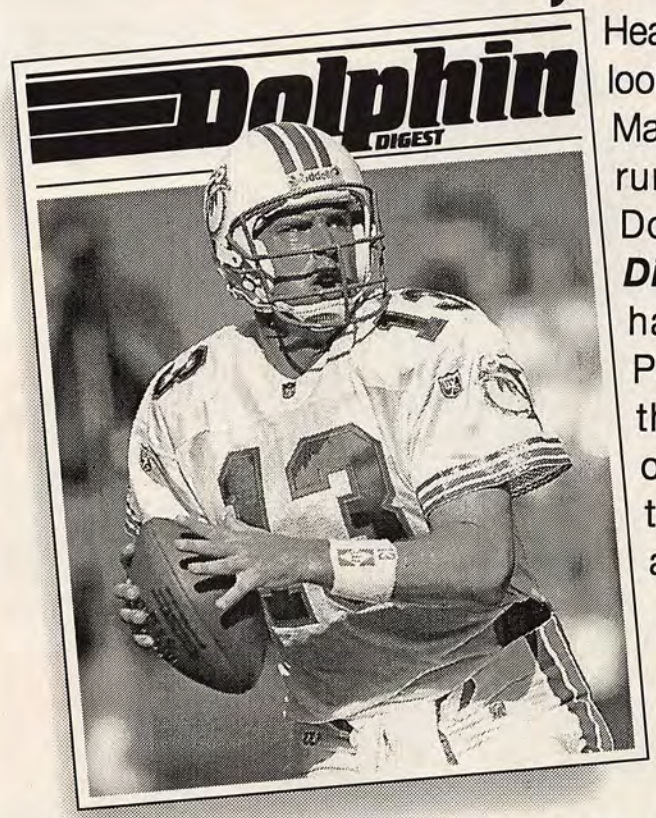

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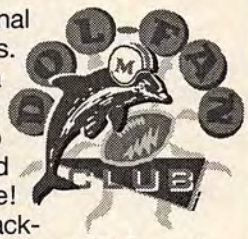

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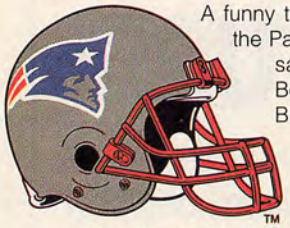
New England Patriots



A funny thing happened to the Patriots on their crusade to the Super Bowl. They became Bledsoe-poor. They are paying so much money to wonder quarterback Drew Bledsoe that they can't stay competitive in the free-agent market any longer.

Free-Agent Bargains

The Pats signed six bargain free agents during the off-season, but consider their backgrounds:

• Wide receiver Shawn Jefferson of San Diego has great speed, but he drops the ball too often, otherwise he would still be a Charger.

• Safety Willie Clay of Detroit makes the plays (8 interceptions for the Lions last year), but he doesn't have the speed to play much more than zone coverages.

• Defensive tackle Mark Wheeler of Tampa Bay is a solid journeyman, but the Pats need a pass-rush push up the middle. Wheeler has 11 sacks in four pro seasons.

• Defensive tackle Pio Sagapolutele of Cleveland. When he plays, he's tough, but he's injured a lot and has just two sacks in five seasons.

• Inside linebacker Monte Brown of Buffalo is a tough hitter against the run when he isn't hurt, which is fairly often. Brown would have been fortunate to make the Bills' roster this season.

• Punter Tom Tupa of Cleveland. The one signing which gives the Pats clear improvement.

Reunited

There are all manner of things going on in New England, none of them designed to make Bill Parcells's coaching stay a long one. Ostensibly, the most positive thing that happened in the off-season was that Bill Belichick rejoined Parcells, his old boss on the Giants, after he was dismissed as head coach by the Baltimore Ravens. Yet even that had a bizarre quality to it. Belichick has the title of assistant head coach/secondary, but because he has a reputation for impatience with players, especially young ones, he'll design a game plan which will then be put into practice by Al Groh, the defensive coordinator.

With Belichick on board, the Patriots wanted to change to a 4-3 defense. But they don't have the personnel to do it since only Troy Barnett is a natural defensive end and Wheeler is the only quality tackle.

Draft Daze

In the draft, Parcells wanted to trade down and take a big defensive lineman, but he

KEVIN REECE

Dave Meggett piled up almost 2,000 combined yards in rushing, receiving, and kick returns for the Patriots.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 96 points on 27 extra points and 23 field goals T11th

RUSHING—Martin, 1,487 yards on 368 carries, 4.0 avg., 14 TDs 1st

PASSING—Bledsoe, 323 of 636 attempts for 3,507 yards and 13 TDs.....15th

RECEIVING—Coates, 84 receptions for 915 yards, 10.9 avg., 6 TDs.....5th

INTERCEPTIONS—Brown, 4 for 1 yard, 0.3 average.....T10th

PUNTING—Wagner, 37 punts, 42.1 avg., longest 57 yards.....unranked

PUNT RETURNS—Meggett, 45 for 383 yards, 8.5 average 10th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Meggett, 38 for 964 yards, 25.4 average 5th

SACKS—McGinest, 11.0 sacks.....5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	PITTSBURGH (N)
	12	At Dallas (N)
	18	PHILADELPHIA (N)
	23	WASHINGTON (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	At Miami	34-17
	8	At Buffalo	35-25
	15	ARIZONA	
	22	JACKSONVILLE	
	29	Open Date	
October	6	At Baltimore	17-14
	13	WASHINGTON	
	20	At Indianapolis	7-10
	27	BUFFALO (N)	27-14
November	3	MIAMI	3-20
	10	At N.Y. Jets	20-7
	17	DENVER	3-37
	24	INDIANAPOLIS	10-24
December	1	At San Diego (N)	
	8	N.Y. JETS	31-28
	15	At Dallas	
	21	At N.Y. Giants	

doesn't have full control any longer, so the pick was a wide receiver, Terry Glenn of Ohio State. The owner, Bob Kraft, said he made that decision. In the fifth round, one monster defensive tackle remained, Nebraska's Christian Peter. Peter has a criminal rap sheet that was well-documented in the national media. The Pats selected him anyway.

Four days later, the Patriots dropped Peter, claiming they didn't know about the rap sheet. Maybe they cancelled their subscription to *Sports Illustrated* and don't watch "48 Hours." Kraft stepped forward again and said he made the decision to draft Peter. Which brings up a question: How is all of this playing with Parcells?

Offensive Assets

There are reasons the Patriots still can be taken seriously, most of them on offense. They still have Bledsoe passing the ball and Ben Coates, the best tight end in the AFC, catching it. Their offensive line is a strong one, and in second-year pro Curtis Martin they have one of the bright young runners in the game.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Bill Parcells, Head Coach
Bill Belichick, Asst. Head Coach/Secondary
Al Groh, Defensive Coordinator
Ray Perkins, Offensive Coordinator
Maurice Carthon, Running Backs
Romeo Crennel, Defensive Line
Fred Hoaglin, Offensive Line
Chris Palmer, Quarterbacks
Johnny Parker, Strength & Conditioning
Mike Pope, Tight Ends
Dante Scarnecchia, Defensive Asst./Linebackers
Mike Sweatman, Special Teams
Charlie Weis, Wide Receivers

Drew Bledsoe

Bledsoe was not worth his big money in 1995. He threw more interceptions (16) than touchdown passes (13), which isn't unusual for him. But in 1994 the tradeoff was more digestible: 27 interceptions to 25 TD passes. His passing yardage was down more than 1,000 yards from the previous year and his passer rating (63.7) was 28th in the NFL.

Maybe an asterisk is in order. In an early-season game against San Francisco, Bledsoe suffered a left shoulder separation, but Parcells kept him in the game. The young quarterback threw 51 passes, despite being in severe pain. He missed one game, then went all the way in a 37-3 blowout loss to Denver in which he passed 56 times. It was not one of the wisest coaching decisions in Parcells's career.

Hidden Gems

Martin appears to be one of the all-time draft bargains. The Pats got him in the third round in 1995. It wasn't just his 1,487 yards and 14 rushing touchdowns. It was the way he finished against hot, playoff-bound teams: 142 yards against Miami, 148 against Buffalo, 120 against Pittsburgh, and, in the finale, 103 against Indianapolis.

There was no give-up in Coates, either. He caught three touchdown passes in a victory over Buffalo, a game the Bills needed desperately, then caught 11 passes against the Steelers. His 84 catches were the most, by far, of any NFL tight end. The line features Pro Bowler Bruce Armstrong at left tackle. Dave Wohlabaugh won the center job four games into his rookie season and has the look of a longtime fixture. Ex-Giants Bob Kratch and William Roberts are the guards and Max Lane the right tackle.

Vincent Brisby was the only reliable wideout. He caught 66 passes, but only three for scores. Glenn needs to be a major contributor as a rookie, along with Jefferson, and it would help if speedy Kevin Lee stayed injury free. Versatile Dave Meggett, reunited with Parcells, piled up 1,931 all-purpose yards.

Defensive Needs

The Patriots needed a couple of legitimate stoppers in the line, a monster inside linebacker to replace Vincent Brown, and a couple of new safeties in order to move up from 28th place in the NFL defensive rankings. Neither free agency nor the draft brought the line studs and the other reinforcements are in an uncertain state.

There is an overload of rush linbackers. Willie McGinest had 11 sacks, including eight in the last seven games. His opposite number is Chris Slade, who plays the same style but has to improve on his four sacks. They are joined by Tedy Bruschi, a great college end at Arizona who is being converted to linebacker, not an easy switch.

In a mystery move tied to the salary cap, Vincent Brown, the defensive captain, was released. His questionable knees were cited as the cause, but he ended the season with an 10-tackle performance against the Colts and finished with 100 tackles for the fifth consecutive year. The relatively inexperienced Monte Brown and Ted Johnson must replace him. Wheeler and Sagapolutele are the main suspects in the interior line. Journeyman Larry Tharpe also was signed. The top draftee was fourth-rounder Chris Sullivan, who plays the run well.

Cornerstones

Ty Law, last season's No. 1 draftee, won the job at right cornerback late in the season and had interceptions in his first three starts. Ricky Reynolds brings experience to the other side. That's important since Belichick and Groh use the corners to play man-to-man coverages while the safeties play a two-deep zone. Clay will be the free safety. Rookie Lawyer Milloy, who has a strong reputation as a run supporter but is iffy on coverage, should be the strong safety.

Room for Improvement

Place-kicker Matt Bahr had the lowest field goal percentage in the AFC (.697 on 23 of 33). Tupa brings a 43.6-yard punting average. Meggett was among the league leaders in kickoff returns (25.4) but suffered a drop-off in punt returns.

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
50	Abrams, Bobby	LB	6-3	240	30	Michigan
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	295	31	Louisville
3	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	40	Penn State
7	Barker, Jay	QB	6-2	215	24	Alabama
98	Barnett, Troy	DE	6-5	293	26	North Carolina
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB	6-5	233	25	Washington St.
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR	6-2	188	26	NE Louisiana
30	Brown, Corwin	S	6-1	200	27	Michigan
96	Brown, Monty	LB	6-0	233	27	Ferris State
80	Brown, Troy	WR	5-9	190	26	Marshall
85	Burke, John	TE	6-2	258	25	Virginia Tech
41	Cade, Eddie	S	6-1	206	23	Arizona St.
54	Catanho, Alcides	LB	6-3	216	25	Rutgers
32	Clay, Willie	S	5-9	184	26	Georgia Tech
87	Coates, Ben	TE	6-5	245	27	Livingstone
54	Collins, Todd	LB	6-2	242	27	Carson-Newman
92	Collons, Ferric	DE	6-6	295	27	California
26	Croom, Corey	RB	5-11	208	26	Ball State
66	Dellenbach, Jeff	C	6-6	300	34	Wisconsin
99	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	248	34	Boston College
33	Gash, Sam	RB	5-11	224	28	Penn State
67	Gisler, Mike	C	6-4	300	27	Houston
81	Graham, Hason	WR	5-10	176	26	Georgia
34	Grant, Rupert	RB	6-1	233	23	Howard
31	Hitchcock, Jimmy	CB	5-10	188	25	North Carolina
93	Holcomb, Sean	DE	6-3	250	26	Tex. A&M-Kingsville
80	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	5-11	172	28	Central Florida
52	Johnson, Ted	LB	6-3	240	24	Colorado
96	Jones, Mike	DE	6-4	295	27	N. C. State
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6-3	288	31	Iowa
68	Lane, Max	T	6-6	295	26	Navy
24	Law, Ty	CB	5-11	196	23	Michigan
86	Lee, Kevin	WR	6-1	194	26	Alabama
43	Lewis, Vernon	CB	5-10	192	26	Pittsburgh
28	Martin, Curtis	RB	5-11	203	24	Pittsburgh
55	McGinest, Willie	LB	6-5	252	25	USC
99	McKenzie, Rich	LB	6-2	258	26	Penn State
22	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	195	31	Towson St.
58	Moore, Marty	LB	6-1	242	26	Kentucky
83	Moore, Will	WR	6-2	180	27	Texas Southern
23	Ray, Terry	S	6-1	205	27	Oklahoma
21	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	190	32	Washington St.
94	Roberts, Tim	DE	6-6	318	28	Southern Miss
	Roberts, William	G	6-5	280	34	Ohio State
71	Rucci, Todd	G	6-5	291	26	Penn State
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6-4	248	27	New Hampshire
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	DT	6-6	297	27	San Diego St.
53	Slade, Chris	LB	6-5	242	26	Virginia
29	Smith, Frankie	CB	5-9	182	28	Baylor
7	Tupa, Tom	P	6-4	230	31	Ohio State
9	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	200	35	Cal. St.-Northridge
91	Walker, Bruce	NT	6-4	310	24	UCLA
77	Wheeler, Mark	DT	6-2	285	27	Texas A&M
25	Whigham, Larry	S	6-2	202	25	NE Louisiana
90	White, Reggie	NT	6-4	315	27	N. C. A&T
64	Wohlabaugh, Dave	C	6-3	304	25	Syracuse
40	Yancy, Carlos	CB	6-1	185	27	Georgia
16	Zolak, Scott	QB	6-5	222	29	Maryland

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Glenn, Terry	WR	5-10	222	Ohio State
2	Milloy, Lawyer	S	6-0	210	Washington
3	Bruschi, Tedy	DE	6-1	250	Arizona
4	Irwin, Heath	OG	6-4	288	Colorado
4	Sullivan, Chris	DE	6-4	273	Boston College
4	Barber, Kantroy	FB	6-1	242	West Virginia
5	Elmore, John	G	6-3	290	Texas
5	Peter, Christian	DT	6-3	295	Nebraska
6	Griffin, Chris	TE	6-3	255	New Mexico
6	Grier, Marrio	FB	6-0	238	UT-Chattanooga
6	Wyman, Devin	DE	6-6	306	Kentucky St.
7	Purnell, Lovett	TE	6-2	230	West Virginia
7	Conrad, J.R.	G	6-3	322	Oklahoma

New York Jets

Remember last season's AFC championship game between Indianapolis and Pittsburgh, when the camera twice caught Steelers quarterback Neil O'Donnell blowing kisses to someone up in the luxury boxes? There was a mystery then as to the identity of the target. Seven weeks later, the evidence pointed to Leon Hess, the octogenerian owner of the Jets, who agreed to pay O'Donnell $25 million over the next seven years to quarterback his franchise.

NEW YORK JETS

Rich Kotite, Head Coach
Zeke Bratkowski, Assistant to Head Coach
Ron Erhardt, Offensive Coordinator
Jim Vechiarella, Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
Tom Gamble, Defensive Asst./Quality Control
Peter Giunta, Secondary
Ray Hamilton, Defensive Line
Pat Hodgson, Tight Ends
Richard Mann, Wide Receivers
Bill Muir, Offensive Line
Ken Rose, Special Teams
Jim Williams, Strength & Conditioning
Dick Wood, Running Backs

Ready for Takeoff

Some see it as one of the great free-agency hijackings of all time. Others say the Jets did the right thing, even though they overpaid to do it. Where else was the worst team in the NFL going to find a quarterback? Not in the draft, where most talent appraisers weren't sure any of this year's crop of college quarterbacks was worth even a second-round draft choice. Other than O'Donnell, the 1996 free agent market was so devoid of quality that the Arizona Cardinals signed Boomer Esiason, whom the Jets and most other teams deemed over the hill.

O'Donnell, who completed 59 percent of his throws for 2,970 yards and 17 touchdowns with just seven interceptions, may not rank among the top echelon of NFL quarterbacks, but he should give the Jets better production than they have had in a long time. They were dead last in total offense and had just two rushing touchdowns last season. Coach Rich Kotite could end up valuing O'Donnell for what he is unlikely to do, throw interceptions, despite O'Donnell's pair of damaging interceptions in Pittsburgh's Super Bowl loss to Dallas. Veteran Frank Reich was signed as the backup.

Air Strikes

New York hasn't spared anything in support for its new quarterback. Keyshawn Johnson, the best receiver in the draft, was the Jets' No. 1 pick. He immediately becomes O'Donnell's go-to guy. Johnson is at his best in the big games. He caught a total of 20 passes and scored four touchdowns in the 1994 Cotton Bowl and 1995 Rose Bowl. He gives the Jets a big lift and already seems comfortable in the media's bright lights. In the second round, the Jets drafted the prolific Alex Van Dyke, who caught 227 passes, including 26 for touchdowns in his last two seasons at Nevada.

The Jets also went into the market to sign one of the most desirable wide receivers, Jeff Graham, who caught 150 balls for more than 2,200 yards in his two seasons with the Chicago Bears. The bonus for New York is that Graham spent his formative seasons as a Steeler, meaning O'Donnell is accustomed to him.

With former No. 1 pick Johnny Mitchell jettisoned, Kyle Brady has tight end to himself. Last year's top draftee, Brady was reduced to making 911 calls to his college coach at Penn State since he wasn't learning much from the Jets' staff. New offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt, fresh from the Steelers, should fix that. Even with all the new receivers on hand, work should be found for Wayne Chrebet, the surprising free agent who led the team with 66 catches in his rookie year.

With 10 sacks, defensive Rookie of the Year Hugh Douglas had an immediate impact on the Jets.

RON WYATT

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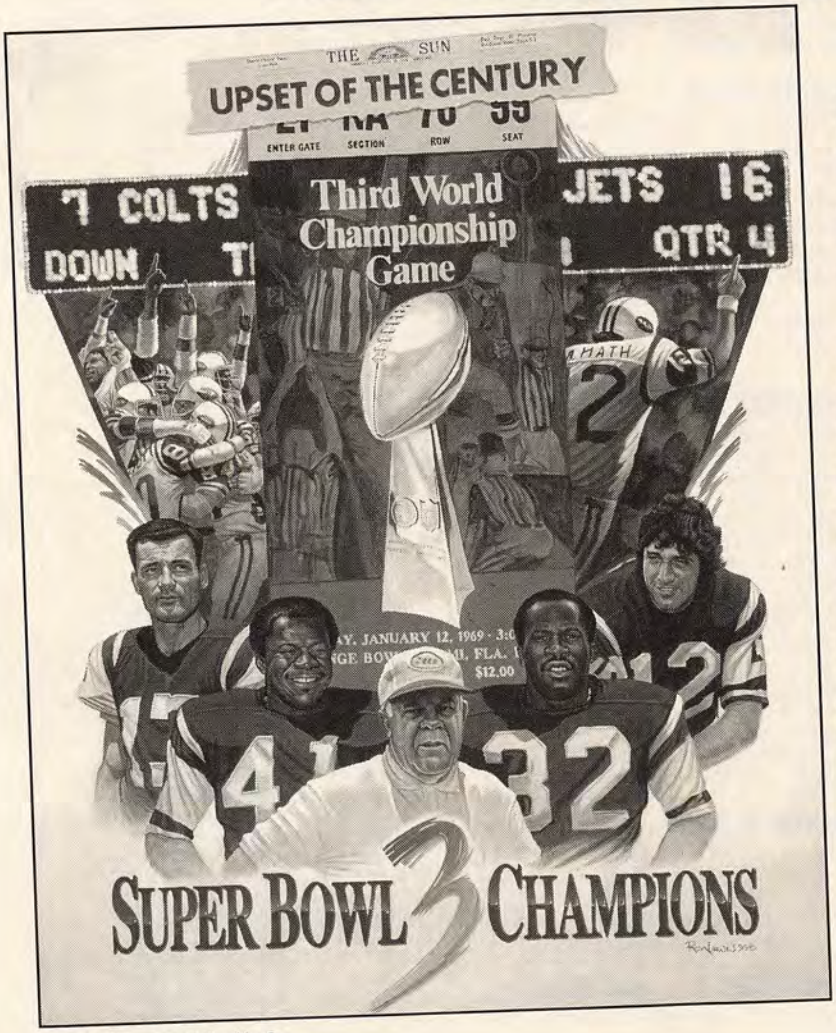

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MIKE ALLEN

Protecting the Passer

To protect the new quarterback, the Jets signed two new tackles: Jumbo Elliott of the Giants and David Williams, the latter most famous for taking an unofficial paternity leave when he played for Houston. Both are risky investments, Jumbo because he has a bad back and Williams because he's never performed particularly well. Yet Kotite denuded his offensive line so recklessly last year that something had to be done.

Center Dave Alexander and tackle Siupeli Malamala come off the injury list, which should help. The biggest help would come from the development of guard Matt O'Dwyer. He didn't play much as a rookie, but his skill and nasty outlook are needed now.

Grounded

The Jets took some heat when they passed up Texas A&M speed back Leeland McElroy for Van Dyke in the draft's second round at the same hour they were re-signing running back Adrian Murrell to a rich contract. The Jets had the league's worst rushing attack: a mere 1,279 team yards. Five NFL players, including AFC East rival Curtis Martin (1,487) of New England, topped that mark. In comparison, Murrell's team-leading 795 yards ranked 22nd in the league.

"The Jets didn't make a mistake," says John Butler, a strong admirer of McElroy. "We think Murrell is one of the most underrated running backs in the NFL." The reshaped offensive line should help him. Fullback Brad Baxter, who ran for 296 yards, will do the blocking. Ronald Moore, whom the Jets obtained from Arizona for receiver Rob Moore prior to the start of last season, had just 121 yards.

On the Bright Side

The bright side is on defense. The Jets finished first in the NFL in pass defense, which is a slightly skewed statistic since they were 25th against the run. Nevertheless, they recorded an impressive 43 sacks and intercepted 17 passes. Better yet, it is a young defense, loaded with premium talent.

Last year's defensive Rookie of the Year, right end Hugh Douglas, made an immediate impact with 10 sacks. The front office re-signed Marvin Washington, who had six sacks in his best pro season. There is no huge interior lineman to tie up traffic, but Matt Brock contributed five sacks and Erik Howard, another journeyman, offers experience.

Backing the Line

Middle linbebacker Marvin Jones finally stayed healthy and had a strong year. With Jones and the underrated Mo Lewis and Bobby Houston on the outside, the Jets' linebacking ranks with the best. Left corner Aaron Glenn, the club's top pick two years back, needed a partner on the right side, so his old Texas A&M teammate, Ray Mickens, was drafted and may start. Both are small, but Mickens has a lot of Glenn's qualities, too. Victor Green remains at one safety; another rookie, Marcus Coleman of Texas Tech, could push for work alongside him.

Oldie but Goodie

At 40, all-time kicker Nick Lowery is cranky but effective. He was successful on 17 of 21 field goals. Brian Hansen led the NFL in a stat no team is proud to claim: most punts (100). A lighter work load could make him more effective. Ron Carpenter returned just 20 kickoffs, but his 27.7-yard average was the best in the league. Rookie Chad Cascadden was a coverage demon.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery, 75 points on 24 extra points and 17 field goals 19th

RUSHING—Murrell, 795 yards on 192 carries, 4.1 avg., 1 TD.....11th

PASSING—Esiason, 221 of 389 attempts for 2,275 yards and 16 TDs.....13th

RECEIVING—Murrell, 71 receptions for 465 yards, 6.5 avg., 2 TDs.....7th

INTERCEPTIONS—Smith, 6 for 101 yards, 16.8 average, 1 TD T2nd

PUNTING—Hansen, 99 punts, 41.3 avg., longest 67 yards.....10th

PUNT RETURNS—Sydner, 17 for 178 yards, 10.5 average .....unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Carpenter, 20 for 553 yards, 27.7 average 1st

SACKS—Douglas, 10.0 sacks T8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	vs. Houston at Jackson, MS (N)
	8	At Philadelphia (N)
	17	N.Y. GIANTS (N)
	23	At Oakland (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Denver	
	8	INDIANAPOLIS	24-27
	15	At Miami	14-52
	22	N.Y. GIANTS	
	29	At Washington (N)	
October	6	OAKLAND	10-47
	13	At Jacksonville	27-10
	20	BUFFALO	26-28
	27	At Arizona	
November	3	Open Date	
	10	NEW ENGLAND	7-20
	17	At Indianapolis	10-17
	24	At Buffalo	10-29
December	1	HOUSTON	6-23
	8	At New England	28-31
	14	PHILADELPHIA	
	22	MIAMI	17-16

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
72	Alexander, Dave	C	6-3	275	32	Tulsa
30	Baxter, Brad	RB	6-1	235	30	Alabama St.
84	Baxter, Fred	TE	6-3	260	26	Auburn
78	Benfatti, Lou	DT	6-4	278	26	Penn State
68	Bock, John	C	6-3	275	26	Indiana St.
81	Brady, Kyle	TE	6-6	260	25	Penn State
94	Brock, Matt	DT	6-5	290	31	Oregon
26	Carpenter, Ron	S	6-1	189	27	Miami (OH)
53	Cascadden, Chad	LB	6-1	225	25	Wisconsin
88	Ceaser, Curtis	WR	6-2	190	24	Grambling
80	Chrebet, Wayne	WR	5-10	180	23	Hofstra
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	34	TCU
83	Davis, Tyrone	WR	6-4	229	25	Virginia
52	Dixon, Cal	G	6-4	302	27	Florida
99	Douglas, Hugh	DE	6-2	265	25	Central State
62	Duffy, Roger	G	6-3	311	29	Penn State
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	308	32	Michigan
31	Glenn, Aaron	CB	5-9	185	24	Texas A&M
81	Graham, Jeff	WR	6-2	200	28	Ohio State
21	Green, Victor	DB	5-9	195	27	Akron
22	Greenwood, Carl	CB	5-11	186	25	UCLA
11	Hansen, Brian	P	6-4	215	36	Sioux Falls
79	Hayes, Melvin	T	6-6	329	24	Mississippi St.
55	Houston, Bobby	LB	6-2	245	29	N. C. State
74	Howard, Erik	DT	6-4	275	32	Washington St.
66	Hudson, John	G	6-2	276	29	Auburn
25	Jones, Gary	S	6-1	217	29	Texas A&M
54	Jones, Marvin	LB	6-2	249	25	Florida State
43	Joseph, Vance	CB	6-0	202	24	Colorado
57	Lewis, Mo	LB	6-3	250	27	Georgia
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	215	40	Dartmouth
75	Malamala, Siupeli	T	6-5	315	27	Washington
51	Mason, Eddie	LB	6-0	230	25	North Carolina
32	May, Sheriden	RB	6-0	215	23	Idaho
67	McIver, Everette	G	6-6	315	26	Elizabeth City St.
33	Moore, Ronald	RB	5-10	225	27	Pittsburg St.
29	Murrell, Adrian	RB	5-11	214	26	West Virginia
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	226	30	Maryland
70	O'Dwyer, Matt	G	6-4	302	23	Northwestern
3	O'Neill, Pat	P	6-1	200	26	Syracuse
80	Owens, Darrick	WR	6-2	202	26	Mississippi
34	Rasheed, Kenyon	RB	5-10	245	26	Oklahoma
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	205	35	Maryland
67	Simpson, Tim	G	6-2	284	28	Illinois
45	Smith, Otis	CB	5-11	190	31	Missouri
84	Smith, Rico	WR	6-0	185	28	Colorado
93	Spindler, Marc	DT	6-5	290	27	Pittsburgh
85	Sydner, Jeff	WR	5-6	170	27	Hawaii
97	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	280	31	Idaho
73	Williams, David	T	6-5	292	31	Florida
61	Wisdom, Terrence	G	6-4	300	25	Syracuse
87	Yarborough, Ryan	WR	6-2	195	26	Wyoming
44	Young, Lonnie	S	6-1	196	33	Michigan St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Johnson, Keyshawn	WR	6-3	210	USC
2	Van Dyke, Alex	WR	6-0	200	Nevada
3	Mickens, Ray	CB	5-8	174	Texas A&M
5	Coleman, Marcus	DB	6-2	197	Texas Tech
6	Hunter, Hugh	DE	6-2	260	Hampton
7	Hayes, Chris	DB	5-11	191	Washington St.

MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT USA

Willie Williams stepped into the Steelers' depleted secondary and led the AFC with seven interceptions.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Before they were measured for their championship rings, the Steelers' AFC title was in an advanced state of decay. A great deal happened to this team since the day it battled Dallas almost to the wire in Super Bowl XXX, little of it good.

Personnel Losses

The starting quarterback, Neil O'Donnell, defected to the New York Jets via free agency and left almost no usable experience in his wake. Leon Searcy, arguably the best right tackle in the NFL, signed with Jacksonville as a free agent. Pass-rushing linebacker Kevin Greene signed with Carolina as a free agent. The team's leading ground gainer in the Super Bowl, Bam Morris, was arrested on a felony drug case in Texas. Days after the Super Bowl, offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt was fired. And the highly regarded special teams coach, Bobby April, quit without another job in hand. The word "dynasty" is not bandied about much after such developments.

Will Bill Cowher, the coach, be able to handle all these setbacks? There were some antidotes, mainly the signing of free agent lineman Will Wolford from Indianapolis and the trade which brought running back Jerome Bettis from St. Louis. Preliminary plans are not to use Wolford in Searcy's old spot, but to station him at left guard. The most nagging personnel problem is quarterback. Cowher's choice is between the inexperienced Jim Miller or the even less experienced Kordell Stewart, who spent his rookie year as "slash," the jack of all positions, functioning as a receiver and runner as much as he did as quarterback.

A Call to Arms

Fan sentiment in Pittsburgh after the Super Bowl, in which O'Donnell gift-wrapped two damning interceptions by Dallas's Larry Brown, was "good riddance" when O'Donnell signed with the Jets. "We lost a bunch of players to free agency last year but we adjusted," argued Cowher. "We lost Rod Woodson in the first quarter of the opening game and adjusted. We'll work it out."

Still, Pittsburgh couldn't afford to lose O'Donnell, even though New York overpaid to get him. He threw for just under 3,000 yards and 17 touchdowns, not eye-popping numbers, but he was the right guy for the Steelers. The Super Bowl notwithstanding, he had one of the four lowest interception percentages in the NFL, 1.7.

Miller, who impressed the brass during the preseason in 1995, seems the safer choice. His style in the pocket is more similar to O'Donnell's. Miller threw 56 passes, mostly in mop-up situations, after a brief prepping in the World League of American Football. His touchdown-to-interception ratio was 2 to 5.

Stewart launched seven passes, some when he was lined up at positions other than quarterback. His indoctrination into a utility role took too much time away from his quarterback tutorial. Stewart's freewheeling style may be too much for the Steelers' offensive line, with two position changes of its own, to digest in one season.

If Cowher wants experience, there is always Mike Tomczak, who had a TD-to-interception ratio of 1 to 9. None of the solutions screams "Repeat!" Plan B, in the wake of O'Donnell's departure, might have been controlling the ball with the run and playing defense. But that was before Searcy jumped to the Jaguars and Morris got arrested.

Starting Over

The Steelers put a potential smiley face on the off-season by dealing for Bettis, who won the NFC's Rookie of the Year award in 1993 and had two consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. Bettis alienated the fans in St. Louis and the Rams' coaching staff by first holding out, then putting it in cruise control once he did report.

Bettis has the sort of power and speed to hurt tacklers who get in his way. In his first two and a half seasons, he recorded 10 100-yard games and a 220-yarder. The more worrisome red light goes on when his last eight games of 1994 are examined. Not only were there no 100-yard games, but there were six games when he gained less than 50 yards. If Cowher can restimulate Bettis's

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Bill Cowher, Head Coach
Mike Archer, Linebackers
David Culley, Wide Receivers
Chan Gailey, Offensive Coordinator
Dick Hoak, Running Backs
Dick LeBeau, Defensive Coordinator
Tim Lewis, Defensive Backs
Mike Mularkey, Tight Ends
John Mitchell, Defensive Line
Kent Stephenson, Offensive Line
Ron Zook, Special Teams

zeal, the Steelers could be better off than they were with either Morris or even Barry Foster when he was in the mood to play. Veteran Eric Pegram was the club's leading rusher a year ago, with 813 yards and five touchdowns.

On the Plus Side

To replace Searcy at right tackle, Cowher will plug in Justin Strzelczyk, a utility man with six years of experience. Strzelczyk played guard mostly, but he had four starts in place of John Jackson at left tackle last season. Jackson underwent midseason knee surgery yet ended up a Pro Bowl alternate. Dermontti Dawson is the best center in the AFC. Brendan Stai, one of the studs from Nebraska's 1994 national championship line, won the job at right guard late in the season.

Catching On

Yancey Thigpen, starting at ground zero in 1992, worked his way up to a Pro Bowl berth last season. He had 85 catches and four 100-yard games, becoming the Steelers' first 1,000-yard receiver in a decade. His spectacular leaping catch against Buffalo in the playoffs may have saved the game. Andre Hastings caught 48 passes and Ernie Mills had eight touchdowns among his 39 catches but tore up a knee in the Super Bowl. Charlie Johnson, coming back from his own knee injury after starting 10 games, could push everyone.

There was a happy ending after Eric Green signed with the Miami Dolphins a year ago. Mark Bruener was drafted and by October was the starting tight end. He's a work in progress but Cowher is comfortable with him. Hastings and Mills are the return specialists. Hastings returned a punt 72 yards for a touchdown and Mills averaged 24.2 yards on 54 kickoffs.

Steel Tough

The Steelers will at least be a contender, even with the shaky situations at quarterback and running back, if only because they are so strong defensively. They were second in the NFL against the run, sixth against the pass, and third overall. They allowed just 943 plays, lowest in the league, surrendered 285.1 yards per game, less than a yard per game less than the league-leading Kansas City Chiefs, and led the AFC with 22 interceptions.

Woodson, the best defender, made an amazing comeback from knee surgery to play a specialty role in the Super Bowl. The NFL searched its archives and could not find any evidence of any player returning from reconstructive knee surgery to play later in the season in which he was injured. The Steelers need Woodson all the way back in '96.

Inside linebacker Levon Kirkland, overshadowed by many of his teammates, should have been voted the Most Valuable Player in the Super Bowl even though he was on the losing side. Not only is Kirkland a 100-tackle man, he's now making the big plays. His inside partner, Chad Brown, was hindered by ankle injuries but has risen to first-rank status.

The pass rush revolved around linebackers Greg Lloyd and Greene. "Avoid Lloyd" warn the banners that hang in Three Rivers Stadium, and opposing offenses try to stay away from the Steelers' big hitter. Jason Gildon is Greene's heir-apparent, and the draft brings pass rusher Steve Conley. Ray Seals made a big contribution at right end with 8 1/2 sacks. Left end Brentson Buckner started to be a force in his second season and nose tackle Joel Steed protects the inside linebackers and provides inside push for the pass rush. The big front usually wears on an offensive line.

Cornerstones

It's hard to believe the Steelers lost both corners, Woodson and Deion Figures, and still went to the Super Bowl. Pittsburgh gives thanks to the versatile Carnell Lake. A linebacker at UCLA, Lake became one of the best strong safeties in the NFL, then switched to right corner at midseason and went to the Pro Bowl. Willie Williams replaced Figures and led the AFC with seven interceptions. Free safety Darren Perry has started every game since joining the Steelers in 1992.

Kicking Game

Place-kicker Norm Johnson (34 of 41 field goals) will be leaned upon again. A better punter than Rohn Stark (40.1-yard average) is needed, though. The ex-Colt wilted when he came outdoors. Since both Woodson and Mills will be treated tenderly because of their knee injuries, there will be a search for a new kick-returner. Hastings is likely to return punts.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson,141 points on 39 extra points and 34 field goals.....1st
RUSHING—Pegram, 813 yards on 213 carries, 3.8 avg., 5 TDs.....10th
PASSING—O'Donnell, 246 of 416 attempts for 2,970 yards and 17 TDs...5th
RECEIVING—Thigpen, 85 receptions for 1,307 yards, 15.4 avg., 5 TDs.....4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Williams, 7 for 122 yards, 17.4 average, 1 TD.....1st
PUNTING—Stark, 59 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 64 yards.....14th
PUNT RETURNS—Hastings, 48 for 474 yards, 9.9 average, 1 TD 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mills, 54 for 1,306 yards, 24.2 average.....8th
SACKS—Greene, 9.0 sacks.....T10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	vs. San Diego at Tokyo, Japan (N)
August	3	NEW ENGLAND (N)
	11	At Green Bay (N)
	17	TAMPA BAY (N)
	22	At Philadelphia (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Jacksonville	16-20
	8	BALTIMORE	20-3
	16	BUFFALO (N)	
	22	Open Date	
	29	HOUSTON	21-7
October	7	At Kansas City (N)	
	13	CINCINNATI	9-27
	20	At Houston	34-17
	27	At Atlanta	
November	3	ST. LOUIS	
	10	At Cincinnati	49-31
	17	JACKSONVILLE	24-7
	25	At Miami (N)	10-23
December	1	At Baltimore	20-17
	8	SAN DIEGO	31-16
	15	SAN FRANCISCO	
	22	At Carolina	

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
40	Bell, Myron	S	5-11	203	25	Michigan St.
36	Bettis, Jerome	RB	5-11	243	25	Notre Dame
94	Brown, Chad	LB	6-2	240	26	Colorado
87	Bruener, Mark	TE	6-4	250	24	Washington
96	Buckner, Brentson	NT	6-2	310	25	Clemson
75	Dafney, Bernard	T	6-5	329	28	Tennessee
63	Dawson, Dermontti	C	6-2	286	32	Kentucky
78	Faumui, Ta'ase	DE	6-3	271	26	Hawaii
21	Figures, Deon	CB	6-0	200	27	Colorado
41	Flowers, Lethon	CB	6-0	202	24	Georgia Tech
29	Fuller, Randy	CB	5-9	173	27	Tennessee St.
60	Gammon, Kendall	C	6-4	286	28	Pittsburg St.
92	Gildon, Jason	LB	6-3	235	24	Oklahoma St.
84	Greene, Tracy	TE	6-5	282	24	Grambling
88	Hastings, Andre	WR	6-1	188	26	Georgia
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	248	34	Iowa
76	Henry, Kevin	DE	6-4	275	28	Mississippi St.
83	Holliday, Corey	WR	6-2	208	26	North Carolina
65	Jackson, John	T	6-6	293	32	Eastern Kentucky
90	Johnson, Bill	DT	6-4	290	28	Michigan St.
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	202	37	UCLA
54	Jones, Donta	LB	6-2	226	24	Nebraska
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB	6-1	255	28	Clemson
37	Lake, Carnell	CB	6-1	210	29	UCLA
34	Lester, Tim	RB	5-9	215	29	Eastern Kentucky
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	226	32	Fort Valley St.
78	Martin, Emerson	G	6-2	297	27	Hampton
25	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-10	193	29	Miss. College
16	Miller, Jim	QB	6-2	227	26	Michigan St.
89	Mills, Ernie	WR	5-11	191	28	Florida
33	Morris, Bam	RB	6-0	245	25	Texas Tech
50	Myslinski, Tom	G	6-3	287	28	Tennessee
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	285	34	Wis.-La Crosse
86	Ofodile, A.J.	TE	6-7	260	23	Missouri
24	Oldham, Chris	CB	5-9	183	28	Oregon
55	Olsavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	221	30	Pittsburgh
79	Parrish, James	T	6-6	300	29	Temple
20	Pegram, Erric	RB	5-10	188	28	North Texas
39	Perry, Darren	S	5-11	195	28	Penn State
97	Seals, Ray	DE	6-3	290	32	None
69	Solomon, Ariel	C	6-5	288	28	Colorado
68	Stai, Brenden	G	6-4	305	25	Nebraska
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	38	Florida State
93	Steed, Joel	NT	6-2	295	28	Colorado
10	Stewart, Kordell	QB	6-1	212	24	Colorado
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	G	6-6	291	28	Maine
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	206	27	Win.-Salem St.
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	202	34	Ohio State
21	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5-9	203	27	Michigan
22	Williams, John L.	RB	5-11	231	32	Florida
27	Williams, Willie	CB	5-9	188	26	Western Carolina
67	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	295	33	Vanderbilt
26	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	200	32	Purdue

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Stephens, Jamain	OT	6-6	310	N. C. A&T
3	Conley, Steven	LB	6-5	228	Arkansas
3	Wittman, John	FB	6-1	238	Penn State
4	Holmes, Earl	LB	6-2	225	Florida A&M
4	Arnold, Jahine	WR	6-0	172	Fresno State
5	Raybon, Israel	DE	6-6	268	N. Alabama
6	Jells, Dietrich	WR	5-11	188	Pittsburgh
6	Roye, Orpheus	DT	6-4	300	Florida State
6	Fischer, Spence	QB	6-2	220	Duke
7	Emmons, Carlos	LB	6-4	240	Arkansas St.

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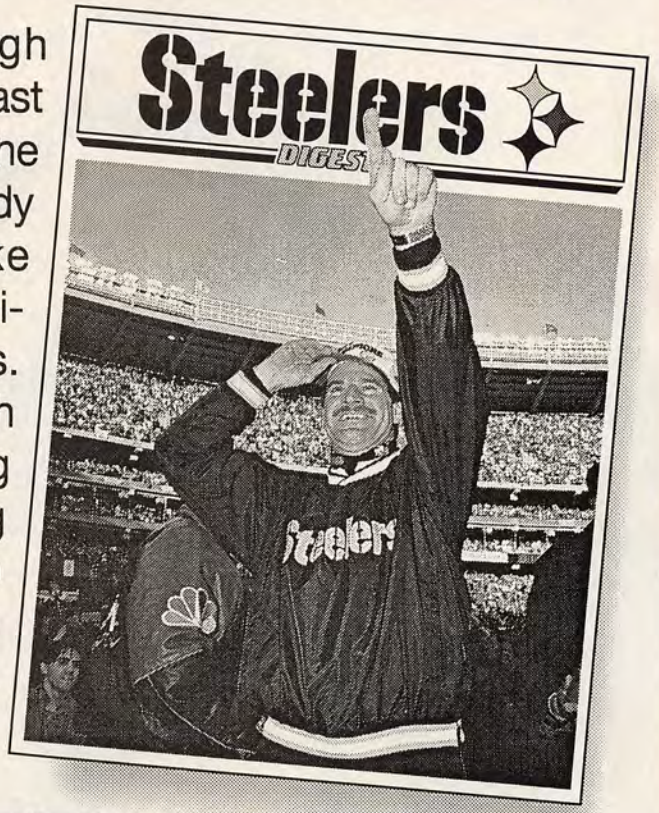

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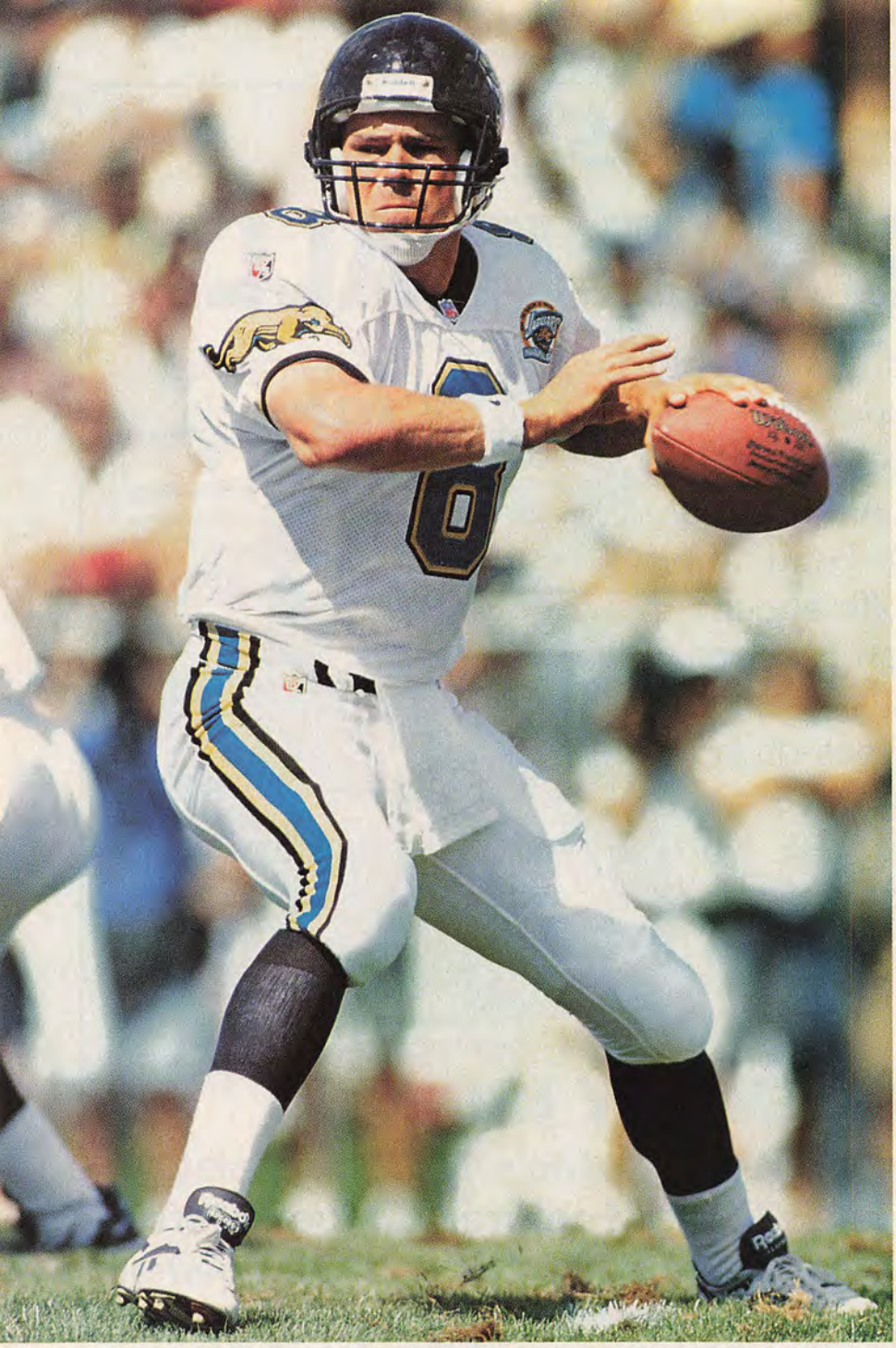
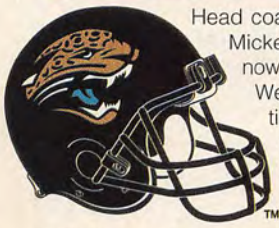


RIC FOGEL/SPORTFOLIO

With three top offensive linemen, the Jaguars and quarterback Mark Brunell plan to succeed by controlling the ball.

Jacksonville Jaguars



Head coach Tom Coughlin's Mickey Mouse rules are now legend in the NFL: Wear helmets at all times in practice, sit up straight in the meetings, no wearing sunglasses on the field for the coaches, etc. The word was that all that high school stuff would drive off the good free agents. Not.

In the Line of Duty

The Jacksonville offense featured 16 different starting lineups, one for each game. The Jaguars made a move for more stability with one of the most important free-agent signings early. They corralled the Pittsburgh Steelers' Leon Searcy, arguably the best right tackle in the league. He was interested in money, not rules. The Jaguars already had the NFL's biggest offensive line, but the Searcy signing made good sense for three reasons.

1. The Jaguars now have three topnotch offensive linemen who should be their foundation for the next decade. They had Tony Boselli at left tackle and Brian DeMarco, who now moves from right tackle to guard.

2. Coughlin settled on Mark Brunell, a left-hander, as his starting quarterback. Southpaws, you see, need competent right tackles to protect their blind spot.

3. The Jags plan to increase the modest four-victory record of their pioneer season by controlling the football.

"Size matters," said Coughlin, "but what matters more is production. Size is an advantage in certain situations, and you'd like it to be a major plus."

Power Backs

The Jaguars finished in the middle of the NFL pack running the ball. They already have a promising power back in James Stewart, who led the team in rushing with 525 yards (3.8-yard average). Brunell was the No. 2 rusher (480 yards), followed by Vaughn Dunbar (361). During the winter Jacksonville claimed Natrone Means from the Chargers, where he had grown rich and hard to handle off the field. Coughlin is nothing if not a disciplinarian. Means,

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Hollis, 87 points on 27 extra points and 20 field goals 15th

RUSHING—Stewart, 525 yards on 137 carries, 3.8 avg., 2 TDs 18th

PASSING—Brunell, 201 of 346 attempts for 2,168 yards and 15 TDs 7th

RECEIVING—Jackson, 53 receptions for 589 yards, 11.1 avg., 5 TDs.....T25th

INTERCEPTIONS—Colon, 3 for 46 yards, 15.3 average.....T16th

PUNTING—Barker, 82 punts, 43.8 avg., longest 63 yards.....4th

PUNT RETURNS—Howard, 24 for 246 yards, 10.3 average 5th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Smith, 24 for 540 yards, 22.5 average, 1 TD 11th

SACKS—Smeenge, 4.0 sacks T43rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	N.Y. GIANTS (N)
	9	At St. Louis (N)
	18	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
	23	At Denver (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	PITTSBURGH	20-16
	8	HOUSTON	3-10
	15	At Oakland	
	22	At New England	
	29	CAROLINA	
October	6	At New Orleans	
	13	N.Y. JETS	10-27
	20	At St. Louis	
	27	At Cincinnati	17-24
November	3	Open Date	
	10	BALTIMORE	24-21
	17	At Pittsburgh	7-24
	24	At Baltimore	23-15
December	1	CINCINNATI	13-17
	8	At Houston	17-16
	15	SEATTLE (N)	30-47
	22	ATLANTA	

who didn't grumble about rules when he got to Jacksonville, is just 26 and, at the top of his game, is as tough to bring down as any power back in the NFL. He ran for 730 yards on 186 carries in an injury-plagued year, but in 1994 he finished second in the AFC, with 1,350 yards in 343 rushing attempts.

A Young Steve Young?

Can you blame Jax supporters if they peer at Brunell and think they see a young Steve Young? Brunell got lost in the shuffle at Green Bay behind Brett Favre and Ty Detmer, and before that shared the quarterback job at the University of Washington with the flamboyant Billy Joe Hobert, now an Oakland Raider. But the lefty was always an intriguing talent who needed more playing time.

Last year he got it. He completed over 58 percent of his passes and threw for more touchdowns (15) than either Drew Bledsoe of New England or Rick Mirer of Seattle, the two AFC prodigies. He had a higher quarterback efficiency rating (82.6) than Jeff Blake (82.1) of Cincinnati, Jim Kelly (81.1) of Buffalo, Steve Bono (79.5) of Kansas City, and Stan Humphries (80.4) of San Diego. He also had the fourth-lowest interception rating (2.0) in the AFC. As for the Young comparison, Brunell's 480 yards rushing were almost twice as many as the 49er star, his 7.2-yard average more than two yards higher, and his four rushing touchdowns one more than Young had.

Soar Spots

With Means paired with Stewart, the running should soar. In fact, the Jags' running game needs to soar, since the team finished 28th in the NFL in offense in its first year. Only the two New York teams finished lower and, like the Jets and Giants, the Jaguars' most woeful offensive deficiency was passing.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Tom Coughlin, Head Coach
Joe Baker, Assistant/Special Teams
Pete Carmichael, Wide Receivers
Randy Edsall, Secondary
Kevin Gilbride, Offensive Coordinator
Jerald Ingram, Running Backs
Dick Jauron, Defensive Coordinator
Mike Maser, Offensive Line
Nick Nicolau, Tight Ends
Jerry Palmieri, Strength & Conditioning
Larry Pasquale, Special Teams
John Pease, Defensive Line
Lucious Selmon, Outside Linebackers
Steve Szabo, Inside Linebackers

Brunell isn't overloaded with pass-catching collaborators. Keenan McCardell, who caught 56 passes as a Brown last year, got a four-year $5.8 million deal and Coughlin says "he's emerged." Willie Jackson, who led the team with 53 receptions, and Desmond Howard, who had 26 and just one touchdown, have not emerged. Reggie Barlow of Alabama State and Florida's overachieving Chris Doering arrive via the draft. Tight end is a hybrid, Pete Mitchell catching 41 passes (12.9-yard average) and Derek Brown blocking, when the latter wasn't injured, that is.

Drafting for Defense

The draft was used for to bolster the NFL's No. 21 defense. The Jaguars allowed 404 points and 46 touchdowns, AFC highs. Linebacker Kevin Hardy, the first-round pick, is the whole package. The Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and the Butkus Award winner, he won't come off the field on third down. And if Coughlin wants to use him on the pass rush, Hardy could do that, too, even though his high-profile college teammate, Simeon Rice, performed that specialty when they played together at Illinois. The Jaguars' No. 2 pick, defensive end Tony Brackens, left Texas a year early. With some polishing he could develop into a good pass rusher.

Brackens will spend the first portion of the season learning behind Joel Smeenge at left end. Smeenge can also play outside linebacker, so when Brackens is ready, the veteran's versatility will remain useful. Jacksonville had the weakest pass rush in the NFL, with just 17 sacks. Smeenge, with four, was the team leader. The Jaguars have to get more out of right end Jeff Lageman, who is capable of more than the three sacks he had last season. It will help as well to have former Green Bay strongman John Jurkovic, who was a force in the NFC championship game against Dallas until he suffered a knee injury, at tackle alongside Kelvin Pritchett.

Backing the Line

With a litle experience, the linebacking corps could be special. Hardy will line up on the strong side opposite Eddie Robinson, a prize free agent signed from Houston who had 3 1/2 sacks and an interception return for a touchdown last year. The middle linebacker is Bryan Schwartz, who went straight from the campus of little Augustana College and into the Jaguars' starting lineup. He led the team in tackles as a rookie.

Secondary Concerns

There is certain to be change in the defensive backfield, where Dana Hall was signed from the Indianapolis Colts and immediately installed as the free safety alongside strong safety Travis Davis. The coaches are also high on second-year man Chris Hudson. Mickey Washington and Vinnie Clark started all 16 games on the corners, but they may receive a challenge from the well-traveled Robert massey and rookies Aaron Beasley of West Virginia (third round) and John Fischer of Missouri Western (sixth round).

Special Teams

Place-kicker Mike Hollis led the team in scoring (87 points). His 34-yard field goal on the last play defeated the Cleveland Browns, 24-21, in the final game of the season. and Bryan Barker had the highest net punting average in the league (38.6 yards). Howard averaged 10.3 yards per punt return, fifth-best in the AFC, and Jimmy Smith returned one kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown.

JAGUARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
4	Barker, Bryan	P	6-2	189	33	Santa Clara
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-3	220	32	Notre Dame
71	Boselli, Tony	T	6-7	323	25	USC
66	Bouwens, Shawn	G	6-5	293	29	Neb. Wesleyan
52	Boyer, Brant	LB	6-1	235	26	Arizona
8	Brunell, Mark	QB	6-0	217	26	Washington
96	Carter, Bernard	LB	6-2	245	25	East Carolina
36	Christopherson, Ryan	RB	6-0	237	24	Wyoming
27	Clark, Vinnie	CB	6-0	204	28	Ohio State
62	Coleman, Ben	G	6-6	335	26	Wake Forest
24	Colon, Harry	S	6-0	203	28	Missouri
92	Davey, Don	DT	6-4	275	29	Wisconsin
45	Davis, Travis	S	6-0	200	24	Notre Dame
73	DeMarco, Brian	T	6-5	314	25	Michigan St.
44	Dickerson, Bryan	RB	6-1	260	26	Eastern Kentucky
32	Dunbar, Vaughn	RB	5-10	204	28	Indiana
91	Frase, Paul	DT	6-5	276	32	Syracuse
54	Goganious, Keith	LB	6-3	244	28	Penn State
26	Green, Rogerick	CB	5-11	187	27	Kansas State
85	Griffith, Rich	TE	6-5	256	27	Arizona
25	Hall, Dana	S	6-2	206	27	Washington
97	Hall, Ray	DT	6-4	294	26	Washington St.
49	Hallock, Ty	TE	6-3	249	26	Michigan St.
1	Hollis, Mike	K	5-7	180	25	Idaho
81	Howard, Desmond	WR	5-10	180	27	Michigan
80	Jackson, Willie	WR	6-1	203	25	Florida
11	Johnson, Rob	QB	6-3	220	24	USC
21	Johnson, Tommy	CB	5-10	180	25	Alabama
23	Jordan, Randy	RB	5-10	216	27	North Carolina
64	Jurkovic, John	NT	6-2	295	29	Eastern Illinois
1	Kimbrough, Tony	WR	6-2	192	26	Jackson State
56	Lageman, Jeff	DE	6-5	266	29	Virginia
93	Logan, Ernie	DE	6-3	283	29	East Carolina
89	Marsh, Curtis	WR	6-1	212	26	Utah
40	Massey, Robert	CB	5-11	195	30	N. C. Central
35	Maston, Le'Shai	RB	6-0	229	26	Baylor
98	Mayfield, Corey	DT	6-3	302	27	Oklahoma
87	McCardell, Keenan	WR	6-1	175	27	UNLV
57	McCoy, Ryan	LB	6-2	247	25	Houston
55	McManus, Tom	LB	6-2	252	26	Boston College
20	Means, Natrone	RB	5-10	245	25	North Carolina
65	Miller, Bronzell	DE	6-4	245	25	Utah
83	Mitchell, Pete	TE	6-2	243	25	Boston College
67	Novak, Jeff	G	6-5	296	29	SW Texas St.
15	Philcox, Todd	QB	6-4	225	30	Syracuse
94	Pritchett, Kelvin	DT	6-3	290	27	Mississippi
50	Robinson, Eddie	LB	6-1	245	27	Alabama State
58	Schwartz, Bryan	LB	6-4	256	25	Augustana (SD)
72	Searcy, Leon	T	6-3	304	27	Miami
99	Smeenge, Joel	DE	6-6	260	29	Western Michigan
82	Smith, Jimmy	WR	6-1	207	28	Jackson St.
53	Stephens, Santo	LB	6-4	244	28	Temple
33	Stewart, James	RB	6-1	221	25	Tennessee
30	Studstill, Darren	S	6-1	186	26	West Virginia
90	Thomas, Cornell	DE	6-3	270	24	West Georgia St.
41	Thomas, Dave	CB	6-3	213	28	Tennessee
95	Thompson, Mike	DT	6-3	276	24	Wisconsin
87	Tillman, Cedric	WR	6-2	219	26	Alcorn St.
84	Warren, Terrence	WR	6-1	205	27	Hampton
25	Washington, Mickey	CB	5-10	191	28	Texas A&M
79	Widell, Dave	C	6-7	308	32	Boston College

DRAFTEES

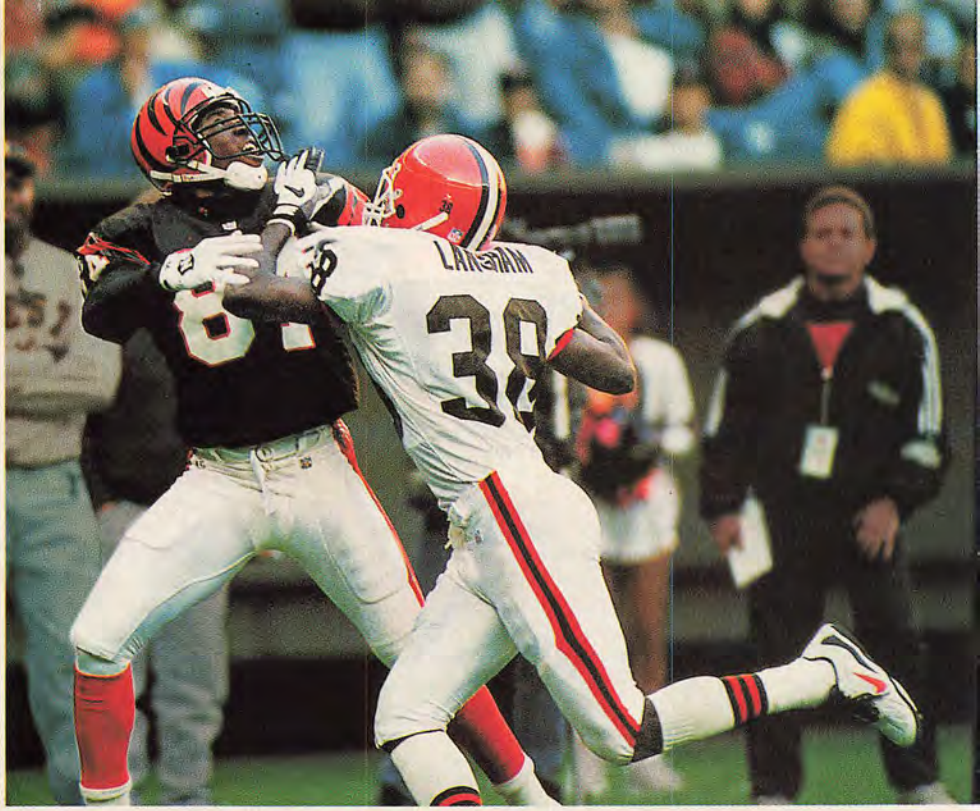
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Hardy, Kevin	OL	6-4	243	Illinois
2	Brackens, Tony	DE	6-4	260	Texas
2	Cheever, Michael	C	6-3	280	Georgia Tech
3	Beasley, Aaron	CB	5-11	190	West Virginia
4	Barlow, Reggie	WR	5-11	189	Alabama St.
5	Herndon, Jimmy	OT	6-8	300	Houston
6	Fischer, John	CB	5-10	195	Mo. Western
6	Doering, Chris	WR	6-3	180	Florida
7	Jones, Clarence	WR	6-0	185	Tennessee St.
7	Spann, Gregory	WR	6-2	208	Jackson St.

Cincinnati Bengals

Cincinnati coach David Shula's 1995 season could perhaps be summed up in two agonizing plays. Both came in a single series during the last game he would ever coach against his father, Don, in October.

On the first play, Cincinnati's pass rushers seemed to trap Miami's Dan Marino in the end zone for a safety. The referees ruled that Marino had released his pass on time: No safety. The second play was a third-down sideline pass. Marino threw the ball, the receiver caught it, but his foot came down clearly out of bounds—directly in front of David Shula. The zebras ruled the catch was made in bounds.

Miami continued on downfield to score and win by three points (one of five three-point losses by the Bengals in a 7-9 season). Now the Bengals' fortunes may be about to turn. Some of those three-point losses could turn into victories in 1996. This young Bengals' team is on the prowl and ready to make a move for the top of the AFC Central.



JOE GIBLIN

Carl Pickens draws close attention, having caught 170 passes, including 28 for touchdowns, for the Bengals in the last two seasons.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Pelfrey, 121 points on 34 extra points and 29 field goals 4th

RUSHING—Green, 661 yards on 171 carries, 3.9 avg., 2 TDs.....15th

PASSING—Blake, 326 of 567 attempts for 3,822 yards and 28 TDs.....9th

RECEIVING—Pickens, 99 receptions for 1,234 yards, 12.5 avg., 17 TDs.....1st

INTERCEPTIONS—Walker, 4 for 56 yards, 14.0 average.....T10th

PUNTING—Johnson, 68 punts, 42.1 avg., longest 61 yards.....9th

PUNT RETURNS—Bieniemy, 7 for 47 yards, 6.7 average.....unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Dunn, 50 for 1,092 yards, 21.8 average.....14th

SACKS—Copeland, 9.0 sacks.....T10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	10	At Arizona (N)
	16	At Washington (N)
	23	DETROIT (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At St. Louis	
	8	At San Diego	
	15	NEW ORLEANS	
	22	Open Date	
	29	DENVER	
October	6	HOUSTON (N)	28-38
	13	At Pittsburgh	27-9
	20	At San Francisco	
	27	JACKSONVILLE	24-17
November	3	At Baltimore	10-26
	10	PITTSBURGH	31-49
	17	At Buffalo	
	24	ATLANTA	
December	1	At Jacksonville	17-13
	8	BALTIMORE	26-29
	15	At Houston	32-25
	22	INDIANAPOLIS	24-21

Breakout Year

"We have three players who could have breakout years," said Shula. "One is Dan Wilkinson at defensive end. The second is Darnay Scott at wide receiver." Then comes the punch line: "Ki-Jana Carter."

The expectation was that Cincinnati would be happy to have Carter ready for the 1997 opener after his serious knee injury in a preseason game last year. But his rehabilitation borders on the miraculous and now he is the key to the season. The Bengals averaged 89.9 yards per game rushing a year ago. Only the Jets were more futile in the AFC. A healthy Carter, the No. 1 pick in the '95 draft, would bump up that number considerably. Harold Green led the team with 661 yards (3.9 average), but that was 15th in the conference and he scored just two touchdowns. Eric Bieniemy ran for 381 yards (3.9) and three TDs.

Pass Rush

On the surface, Cincinnati's pass rush doesn't look deficient. The Bengals had 42 sacks, seven over the AFC average. Yet they gave up far more passing yards than any team in the conference and then lost their best defensive back, safety Darryl Williams, who was signed by Seattle as a free agent. The Bengals signed Bo Orlando, a San Diego safety, but he is no Williams. Wilkinson had eight sacks a year ago—one fewer than left end John Copeland, the Bengals' top draft choice in 1993—but much more is needed, especially consistency, from the 313-pound "Big Daddy" if the Bengals are to make a serious move on Pittsburgh.

Scott Free

Scott's emergence may be essential to the increasingly dangerous Cincinnati passing attack. If Carl Pickens is to be saluted with blanket, multiple coverages, the time for Scott to seize opportunities may be here. "He runs as fast when the football is in the air as any guy I've ever seen," said Shula. Scott caught 52 passes, but his per-catch average (15.8) was three yards higher than Pickens's.

Special Attention

Pickens deserves attention on the other side. In the last two seasons, he has caught 170 passes (99 a year ago), 28 for touchdowns, including 17 in '95. He caught a total of 16 passes for 237 yards and two touchdowns against Pittsburgh. He also played the final, meaningless game against Minnesota after he had suffered a sprained shoulder and a mild concussion against Cleveland the week before. He caught six passes for 73 yards and a TD on a day that completed his perfect work record: starting all 16 games for the first time in his career.

Tight end Tony McGee had his best season, 55 catches (13.7 yards). He will be joined by former Rutgers All-America Marco Battaglia, since the Bengals want to use more double tight-end sets.

Burning Bright

In Jeff Blake, Shula has the man who can get the ball to Pickens, Scott, or anyone else. Blake, in his first full season as the starter, threw more often (567 times) than any Bengal quarterback in history, passing for 3,822 yards and an AFC-high 28 touchdowns. His TD pass to interception ratio (28-17) was exceeded only by John Elway of Denver and Jim Harbaugh of Indianapolis. Blake set a

team record by passing for touchdowns in his first 14 games. More significantly, he threw for six touchdowns and no interceptions against the Steelers.

Last season was Blake's first as a starter, however, and he lagged in the second half. Thirteen of his interceptions came in the final nine games, as did 17 of the 24 sacks. Another year of working with offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet and a '96 season with a viable running game should move Blake into the NFL's top echelon.

BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Ambrose, Ashley	CB	5-10	192	26	Miss. Valley St.
18	Bailey, Thomas	WR	6-0	196	25	Auburn
21	Bieniemy, Eric	RB	5-7	198	27	Colorado
8	Blake, Jeff	QB	6-0	202	26	East Carolina
65	Brilz, Darrick	C	6-4	287	33	Oregon St.
75	Brown, Anthony	T	6-5	310	24	Utah
72	Brumfield, Scott	G	6-8	320	26	BYU
38	Burns, Jason	RB	5-7	185	24	Wisconsin
32	Carter, Ki-Jana	RB	5-10	227	23	Penn State
55	Collins, Andre	LB	6-1	231	29	Penn State
92	Copeland, John	DE	6-3	286	26	Alabama
29	Cothran, Jeff	RB	6-1	240	26	Ohio State
23	Daigle, Anthony	RB	5-10	203	27	Fresno State
89	Davis, Tyree	WR	5-9	175	26	Central Arkansas
51	Dixon, Gerald	LB	6-3	250	28	South Carolina
80	Dunn, David	WR	6-3	210	25	Fresno State
50	Francis, James	LB	6-5	252	28	Baylor
78	Forsythe, Ray	G	6-3	310	25	Central Florida
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	29	South Carolina
45	Hardy, Adrian	CB	5-11	194	26	NW Louisiana
84	Hill, Jeff	WR	5-11	178	24	Purdue
57	Jefferson, Kevin	LB	6-2	232	23	Lehigh
11	Johnson, Lee	P	6-2	200	35	BYU
25	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	185	33	SMU
24	Jones, Roger	CB	5-9	175	28	Tennessee St.
36	Joseph, James	RB	6-2	222	29	Auburn
98	Kelly, Todd	DE	6-2	259	26	Tennessee
7	Klingler, David	QB	6-3	205	28	Houston
56	McDonald, Ricardo	LB	6-2	235	27	Pittsburgh
82	McGee, Tony	TE	6-3	246	26	Michigan
52	Neal, Randy	LB	6-3	236	24	Virginia
26	Orlando, Bo	S	5-10	180	31	West Virginia
9	Pelfrey, Doug	K	5-11	185	26	Kentucky
81	Pickens, Carl	WR	6-2	206	27	Tennessee
76	Pollard, Trent	G	6-4	304	24	E. Washington
37	Prior, Anthony	CB	5-11	185	27	Washington St.
16	Rhodes, David	WR	6-1	200	25	Central Florida
95	Rucker, Keith	DT	6-4	332	28	Ohio Wesleyan
87	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	250	31	Georgia
77	Sargent, Kevin	T	6-6	284	28	E. Washington
23	Sawyer, Corey	CB	5-11	171	25	Florida State
86	Scott, Darnay	WR	6-1	180	24	San Diego St.
35	Shade, Sam	S	6-1	191	24	Alabama
30	Shelling, Chris	S	5-10	180	24	Auburn
70	Smith, Artie	DT	6-4	285	27	Louisiana Tech
37	Spencer, Jimmy	CB	5-9	180	28	Florida
79	Stallings, Ramondo	DE	6-7	285	25	San Diego St.
58	Tovar, Steve	LB	6-3	244	27	Ohio State
59	Truitt, Greg	LB	6-0	235	31	Penn State
61	Tuten, Melvin	T	6-6	305	25	Syracuse
67	von Oelhoffen, K.	DT	6-4	300	26	Boise State
27	Walker, Bracey	S	5-10	200	26	North Carolina
91	Wallerstedt, Brett	LB	6-1	240	26	Arizona State
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-7	292	34	Texas Tech
88	Ware, Derek	TE	6-2	255	29	Central State
37	Wheeler, Leonard	CB	5-11	189	28	Troy State
1	Wilhelm, Erik	QB	6-3	217	31	Oregon St.
99	Wilkinson, Dan	DT	6-5	313	24	Ohio State

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Anderson, Willie	OT	6-5	324	Auburn
2	Battaglia, Marco	TE	6-2	236	Rutgers
3	Blackman, Ken	OT	6-5	300	Illinois
4	Langford, Jevon	DL	6-2	272	Oklahoma St.
5	Myers, Greg	S	6-1	197	Colorado St.
6	Tumulty, Tom	LB	6-2	240	Pittsburgh
7	Jones, Rod	OT	6-4	307	Kansas

Pass Protection

Now the idea is to protect Blake. Last year's line set a club record, allowing just 25 sacks. For the first time in 13 years, the Bengals used a first-round selection to draft an offensive lineman, tackle Willie Anderson of Auburn.

Anderson will push veteran Joe Walter at left tackle, with Melvin Tuten taking over at right tackle. Darrick Brilz returns at center with last year's left tackle, Kevin Sargent, battling with Scott Brumfield for left guard. Ken Blackman, a third-rounder out of Illinois, and seventh-rounder Rod Jones of Kansas will compete for playing time.

The Defense Rests

If it were a matter of offense only, the Bengals would challenge for the Central Division championship. The trouble is, the defense finished last in the NFL and is under a state of repair. The team's weaknesses were exposed last November in a game against Pittsburgh. Cincinnati had beaten the Steelers, 27-9, in October. In the rematch, Cinci led, 31-13, in the third quarter before Pittsburgh scored 36 unanswered points.

Starting Over

There could be three new starters in the secondary alone. Cornerbacks Ashley Ambrose and Jimmy Spencer were signed from Indianapolis and New Orleans, respectively. Keep an eye on Colorado State's Greg Myers, who could be a fifth-round steal. Bracey Walker is the strong safety.

In the line, the left side of Wilkinson and Copeland presents a formidable push. Bulky Keith Rucker at tackle and 49er castoff Artie Smith are on the right side.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Dave Shula, Head Coach
Bruce Coslet, Offensive Coordinator
Larry Peccatiello, Defensive Coordinator
Paul Alexander, Offensive Line
Jim Anderson, Running Backs
Ken Anderson, Quarterbacks
John Garrett, Wide Receivers
Gary Moeller, Tight Ends
Joe Wessel, Special Teams
Tim Krumrie, Defensive Line
Ron Meeks, Defensive Backs
Joe Pascale, Linebackers
Bobby DePaul, Staff Assistant
Kim Wood, Strength

Linebacker Gerald Dixon was signed from Baltimore as a free agent. He joins James Francis, Ricardo McDonald, Andre Collins, and middle linebacker Steve Tovar, who battled injuries and led the team in tackles.

Special Teams

The return game was less than scintillating, especially in punt returns, which averaged an NFL-low 4.9 yards. But Lee Johnson's 38.6-yard net average tied for best among NFL punters while kicker Doug Pelfrey hit 29 of 36 field goals and broke the Bengals' scoring record with 121 points.

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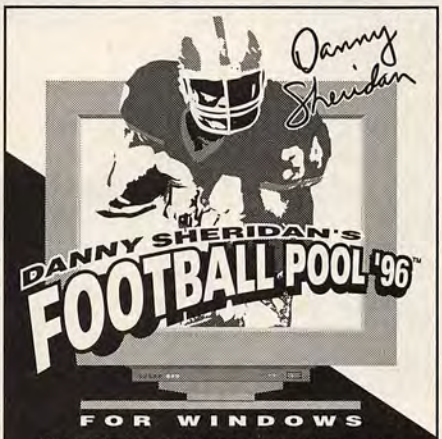

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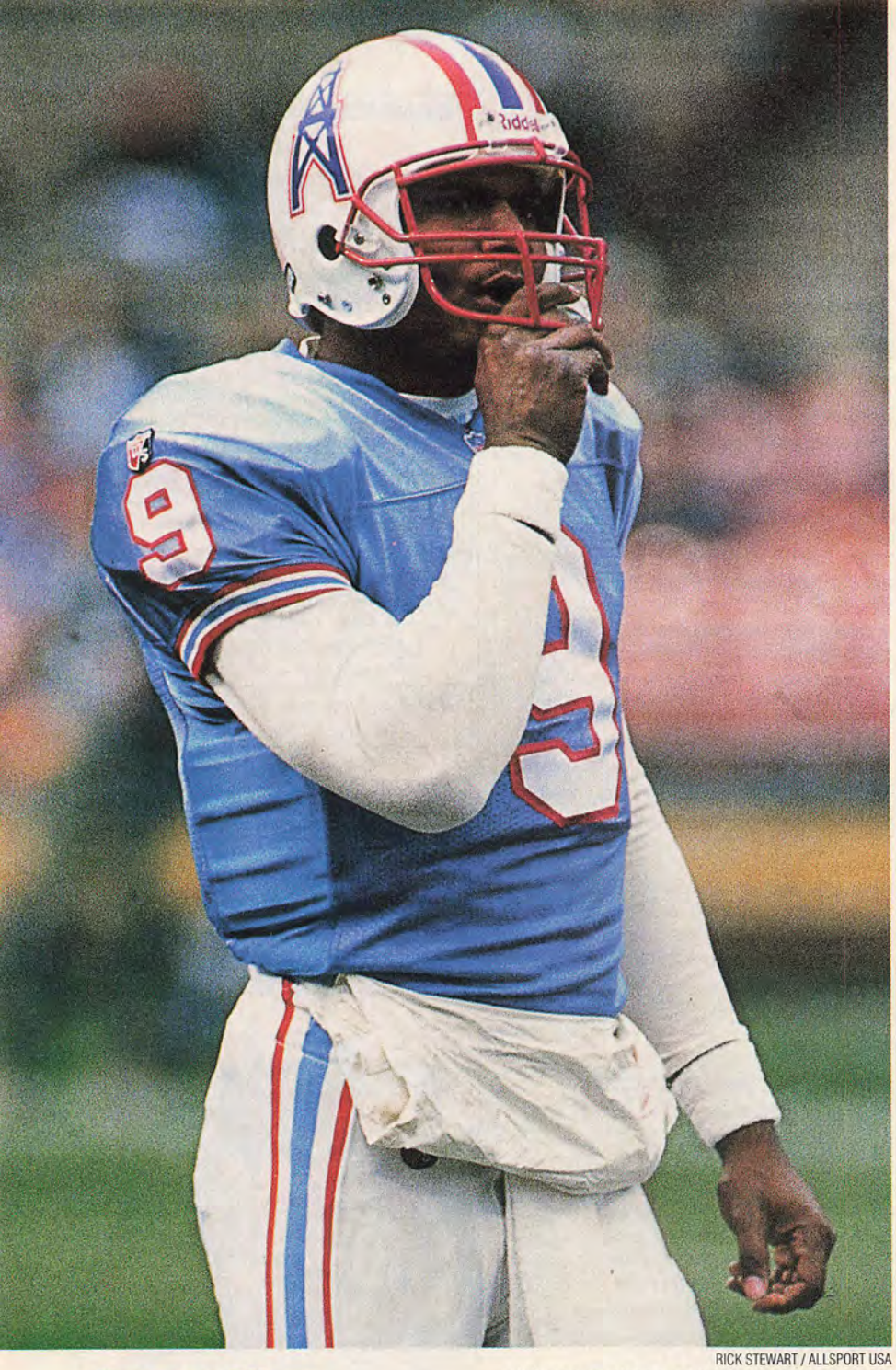


RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT USA

Far removed from the run-and-shoot days, the Oilers patiently await the development of Steve McNair, their brilliant young passer.

Houston Oilers

IFL's "slash" fran-
houston/Nashville.
ng the off-season
re will they play?"
as a question as
frequently asked
as "How will they
lay?" Considering
ne Oilers operat-
ed as a lame-duck team in 1995 and most Houstonians greeted their possible departure with a yawn, they are a team on the rise no matter where they are located.

Under Construction

The offense is in development but the defense is strong enough to allow them to win during the construction period. The 7-9 record was a surprise last year and the Oilers were competitive in every game except the two against Pittsburgh. In seven games the defense allowed 17 points or less.

Bud Adams, who has owned the franchise since it went into business, made some major mistakes through the years, but hiring and retaining Jeff Fisher as head coach was not one of them. Fisher superbly handled one of the NFL's most difficult transition jobs, and his steady hand is the biggest reason the Oilers didn't cave in as the Browns did in the turmoil over a probable franchise move.

Fisher is a Buddy Ryan disciple without the negatives and the "I-want-all-the-power" approach. Floyd Reese, who came up from the ranks as a coach and assistant general manager, quietly established himself as a rising GM. He and Fisher work well together as they shed one football personality for the Oilers and are in the midst of taking on another.

Passing Time

The Oilers are far removed from the run-and-shoot days when almost every play was a pass, there were no actual tight ends on the roster, and the running game was an afterthought. Now Fisher and the brass patiently await the development of Steve McNair, the brilliant young passer who was kept on the sidelines until late in the year lest he be traumatized before he was ready for NFL combat.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Del Greco, 114 points on 33 extra points and 27 field goals 6th

RUSHING—Thomas, 947 yards on 251 carries, 3.8 avg., 5 TDs.....7th

PASSING—Chandler, 225 of 356 attempts for 2,460 yards and 17 TDs.....4th

RECEIVING—Jeffires, 61 receptions for 684 yards, 11.2 avg., 8 TDs.....T16th

INTERCEPTIONS—Lewis, 6 for 145 yards, 24.2 average, 1 TD T2nd

PUNTING—Camarillo, 77 punts, 41.1 avg., longest 60 yards.....12th

PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 30 for 303 yards, 10.1 average 7th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, f53 for 1,183 yards, 22.3 average 12th

SACKS—Ford, 4.5 sacks T38th

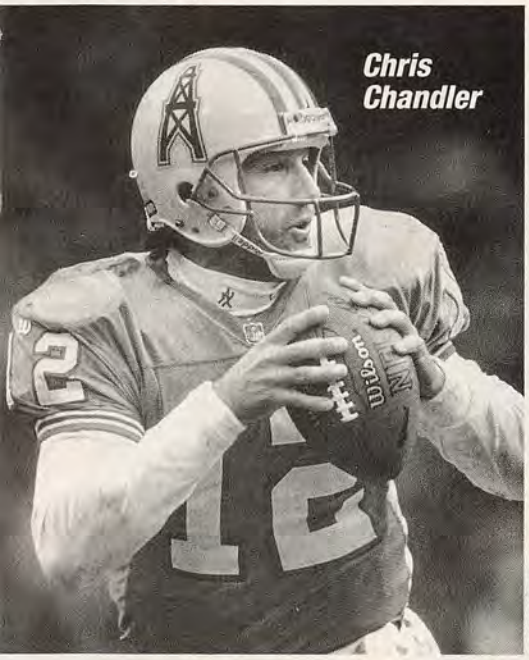
Cook, 4.5 sacks T38th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	vs. N.Y. Jets at Jackson, MS (N)
	10	INDIANAPOLIS
	17	DETROIT
	24	vs. Dallas at Orlando, FL (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	KANSAS CITY	13-20
	8	At Jacksonville	10-3
	15	BALTIMORE	7-14
	22	Open Date	
	29	At Pittsburgh	7-21
October	6	At Cincinnati (N)	38-28
	13	At Atlanta	
	20	PITTSBURGH	17-34
	27	SAN FRANCISCO	
November	3	At Seattle	
	10	At New Orleans	
	17	MIAMI	
	24	CAROLINA	
December	1	At N.Y. Jets	23-6
	8	JACKSONVILLE	16-17
	15	CINCINNATI	25-32
	22	At Baltimore	37-10



PETE J. GROH

Chris Chandler will be the quarterback until McNair is ready. "Chris knows his role," said Fisher. "He is the starter because he knows our offense and NFL defenses." Chandler had a respectable season, with 17 touchdown passes, 2,460 yards, and a 63.2 completion percentage.

Ball Control

The Oilers added a key free agent in May when they signed veteran Ronnie Harmon of San Diego. The versatile Harmon became the fifth running back in NFL history with 500 receptions. He has 522 for his career, including 63 last year for a 10.7-yard average. He also ran for 187 yards.

With the drafting of Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George, the Oilers are likely to control the ball this year, attempt to keep the games close with their defense, and create some breaks for themselves. George is the sort of pound-away ball carrier who can make it work behind Houston's line, which is particularly strong guard to guard. Center Mark Stepnoski and graybeard guard Bruce Matthews went to the Pro Bowl. Kevin Donnalley is the other guard. Brad Hopkins is solid at one tackle, but Irv Eatman may eventually give way to one of the rookies, Michigan's Jon Runyan (fourth round) or Tennessee's Jason Layman (second round), at the other. Rodney Thomas had a 947-yard rookie season, and he'll be an effective change of pace to George.

Hidden Gem

The Oiler draft of 1995 was a motherlode of surprise talent, the most surprising of which was wide receiver Chris Sanders, a gem mined from Ohio State in the third round. Sanders had a breakthrough second half. Of his 35 catches, nine were for touchdowns. He is Mr. Long Distance, averaging 23.5 yards per catch, by far the best mark in the league.

Fisher's inclination toward ball control was evident by his decision to allow Haywood Jeffires, his leading receiver (61 catches for 684 yards and 8 touchdowns), to dangle for months as a free agent. The other returning pass-catching leaders are running back Todd McNair (60) and H-back Frank Wycheck (40). Second-year man Michael Roan may be the blocking tight end.

The Defense Rests

The onus will be on the defense again to shut down the opposition, especially in the first half of the season. With George getting the ball frequently, the defenders should be more rested. If that works, there could be a late surge since the Oilers meet only one 1995 playoff team in the second half.

Even with Eddie Robinson signing with Jacksonville as a free agent, the linebacking remains strong. Veteran Al Smith is an underrated middle backer, with the emerging Micheal Barrow on one side and Joe Bowden, who Fisher thinks will thrive, on the other side. Speedy rookie Terry Killens may fit in somewhere. The Oilers had just 30 sacks, but as the two young guns, tackles Anthony Cook (4 1/2 sacks) and Gary Walker mature, that should increase. Henry Ford had 4 1/2 sacks coming from the other end. End Kenny Davidson is better against the run. Rookie Bryant Mix needs polish but he has pass-rush possibilities.

OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
22	Barnes, Tomur	CB	5-10	188	26	North Texas
56	Barrow, Micheal	LB	6-1	236	27	Miami
23	Bishop, Blaine	S	5-9	197	26	Ball State
58	Bowden, Joe	LB	5-11	230	27	Oklahoma
33	Brown, Gary	RB	5-11	233	28	Penn State
35	Butts, Marion	RB	6-1	248	30	Florida State
16	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	202	37	Washington
26	Cecil, Chuck	S	6-0	185	32	Arizona
12	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-4	225	31	Washington
78	Cook, Anthony	DE	6-3	293	25	S. C. State
90	Davidson, Kenny	DE	6-5	288	29	LSU
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6-0	181	29	Central Arkansas
3	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	200	35	Auburn
28	Dishman, Cris	CB	6-0	188	31	Purdue
77	Donnalley, Kevin	G	6-5	305	29	North Carolina
75	Eatman, Irv	T	6-7	305	36	UCLA
60	El-Mashtoub, H.	C	6-2	288	25	Arizona
91	Evans, Josh	DT	6-2	283	24	Ala.-Birmingham
92	Ford, Henry	DE	6-3	284	25	Arkansas
21	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	171	36	Purdue
51	Hall, Lemanski	LB	6-0	229	26	Alabama
82	Hannah, Travis	WR	5-7	161	27	USC
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	207	33	Iowa
27	Harris, Odie	S	6-0	190	31	Sam Houston St.
70	Hatfield, Mark	T	6-6	305	26	Bishop's
44	Hendrickson, Steve	LB	6-0	250	30	California
72	Hopkins, Brad	T	6-3	306	26	Illinois
25	Hunter, Torey	CB	5-9	176	25	Washington St.
24	Jackson, Steve	CB	5-8	182	28	Purdue
29	Lewis, Darryll	CB	5-9	184	28	Arizona
88	Lewis, Roderick	TE	6-5	254	26	Arizona
74	Matthews, Bruce	G	6-5	298	35	USC
95	McGhee, Kanavis	DE	6-4	257	28	Colorado
87	McKeehan, James	TE	6-3	251	23	Texas A&M
9	McNair, Steve	QB	6-2	224	24	Alcorn St.
55	Mills, John Henry	LB	6-0	222	27	Wake Forest
64	Norgard, Erik	G	6-1	282	31	Colorado
67	Reid, Jim	T	6-6	306	26	Virginia
46	Roan, Michael	TE	6-3	251	24	Wisconsin
21	Robinson, Rafael	S	5-11	200	28	Wisconsin
85	Russell, Derek	WR	6-0	195	28	Arkansas
81	Sanders, Chris	WR	6-0	184	25	Ohio State
83	Seabron, Malcolm	WR	6-0	194	24	Fresno St.
53	Stepnoski, Mark	C	6-2	269	30	Pittsburgh
80	Strong, Jasper	WR	6-1	177	24	Illinois
20	Thomas, Rodney	RB	5-10	213	24	Texas A&M
98	Tuatagaloa, Natu	DE	6-4	275	31	California
96	Walker, Gary	DT	6-2	285	24	Auburn
52	Wortham, Barron	LB	5-11	244	27	Texas-El Paso
89	Wycheck, Frank	TE	6-3	247	25	Maryland

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	George, Eddie	RB	6-3	238	Ohio State
2	Mix, Bryant	DT	6-3	295	Alcorn St.
2	Layman, Jason	OT	6-4	306	Tennessee
3	Killens, Terry	LB	6-0	223	Penn State
4	Burton, Kendrick	DL	6-4	285	Alabama
4	Runyan, Jon	OL	6-7	308	Michigan
5	Stewart, Rayna	CB	5-9	192	N. Arizona
6	Dorsett, Anthony	CB	5-10	190	Pittsburgh
7	Archie, Mike	RB	5-8	208	Penn State

Secondary to None

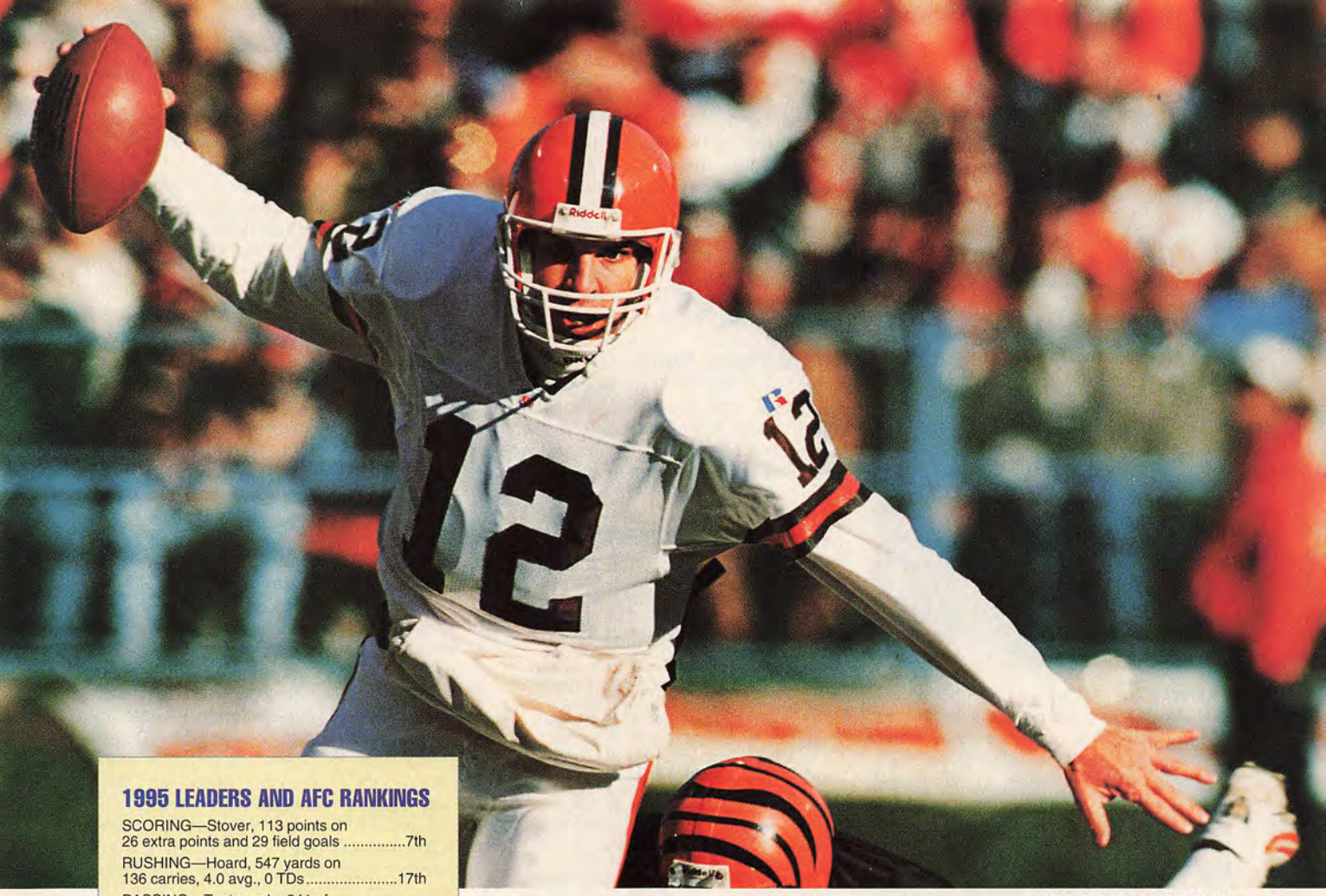
This is one of the best secondaries in the NFL. Few defensive backfields support against the run and tackle as well as Houston's. Blaine Bishop, the team's MVP, has quietly emerged as one of the better strong safeties in the league. Houston was one of two AFC teams with at least 20 interceptions, and cornerback Darryll Lewis had six. Bishop and Lewis were selected for the Pro Bowl. Free safety Marcus Robertson had been to the Pro Bowl in the past and he regularly gets into double figures as an open-field tackler. All are young except for cornerback Cris Dishman, who still retains his extraordinary speed while he has lost some of his recklessness. The opposition completed only 52.3 percent of its passes and converted on just 33.5 of its third-down situations, putting Houston in the NFL's top three in the latter category.

HOUSTON OILERS

Jeff Fisher, Head Coach
Jerry Rhome, Offensive Coordinator
Steve Sidwell, Defensive Coordinator
Dick Coury, Offensive Asst./Passing Game
Alan Lowry, Defensive Asst./Quality Control
Mike Munchak, Offensive Asst./Quality Control
Rex Norris, Defensive Line
Rod Perry, Defensive Backs
Russ Purnell, Special Teams
Warren Simmons, Offensive Line
Sherman Smith, Running Backs
Les Steckel, Wide Receivers/Tight Ends
Steve Watterson, Strength & Conditioning
Gregg Williams, Linebackers

Good News/Bad News

Kicker Al Del Greco was a large part of the offense. The Oilers' leading scorer (114 points), he missed only four of 31 field-goal attempts. His average successful field goal was an AFC-high 38.8 yards. The bad news is that punter Rich Camarillo had a poor year and that long-time return ace Mel Gray is sliding. Gray had five fumbles in his limited handling of the ball.



STEPHEN DUNN / ALLSPORT USA

Without a viable running game, Vinny Testaverde somehow passed for 2,883 yards and 17 touchdowns in the final season in Cleveland.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stover, 113 points on 26 extra points and 29 field goals 7th

RUSHING—Hoard, 547 yards on 136 carries, 4.0 avg., 0 TDs.....17th

PASSING—Testaverde, 241 of 392 attempts for 2,883 yards and 17 TDs...3rd

RECEIVING—Byner, 61 receptions for 494 yards, 8.1 avg., 2 TDs.....T16th

INTERCEPTIONS—Moore, 5 for 55 yards, 11.0 average.....T6th

PUNTING—Tupa, 65 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 64 yards.....5th

PUNT RETURNS—Alexander, 9 for 122 yards, 13.6 average .....unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Hunter, 23 for 508 yards, 22.1 average 13th

SACKS—Pleasant, 8.0 sacks.....T13th

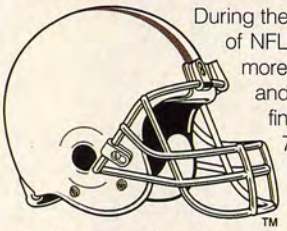
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	PHILADELPHIA (N)
	10	At N.Y. Giants (N)
	17	GREEN BAY (N)
	23	At Buffalo (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	OAKLAND	
	8	At Pittsburgh	3-20
	15	At Houston	14-7
	22	Open Date	
	29	NEW ORLEANS	
October	6	NEW ENGLAND	
	13	At Indianapolis (N)	
	20	At Denver	
	27	ST. LOUIS	
November	3	CINCINNATI	26-10
	10	At Jacksonville	21-24
	17	At San Francisco	
	24	JACKSONVILLE	15-23
December	1	PITTSBURGH	17-20
	8	At Cincinnati	29-26
	15	At Carolina	
	22	HOUSTON	10-37

Baltimore Ravens



During the last six seasons of NFL football in Baltimore, the lamented and departed Colts finished 5-11, 5-11, 7-9, 2-14, 0-8-1 (the strike season of 1982), and 7-9. NFL football is back in Baltimore with the Ravens (formerly the Cleveland Browns), but those bad old days could resemble the good old days unless there are a lot of pleasant surprises. Maybe a change of scenery will create a different atmosphere, but the folks in Cleveland's Dawg Pond weren't the only ones who were angry in 1995.

Nevermore

What was supposed to be a drive to the Super Bowl began with a training-camp holdout by all-star safety Eric Turner which seemed to set the tone for the last, sour season on the shore of Lake Erie. Later Turner was injured and missed most of the year.

Then free-agent wide receiver Andre Rison, for whom owner Art Modell went into hock to meet his $17 million price tag, became just another guy in a soggy passing game. Rison, never one to conceal his unhappiness, went public with his complaints. That was followed by a disastrous brainstorm by ex-coach Bill Belichick, who toyed with quarterback Vinny Testaverde's fragile psyche by benching him in favor of rookie Eric Zeier, who had one good game and then self-destructed.

On the Sidelines

Even after the change in cities and a further change in coaches, plus the new name, the Ravens by any name stayed unhappy. Left tackle Tony Jones, supposedly one of the few leaders on this team, sucked his thumb when UCLA offensive lineman Jonathan Ogden, among the premium prizes of the '96 draft, was selected by his team.

Into this dangerous breach steps Ted Marchibroda, who nearly coaxed the overachieving Indianapolis Colts into the Super Bowl. Marchibroda, with a reputation for getting his players to perform at high throttle for him, will need all the cajoling, charm, persuasion, and who knows what else to get this bunch of prima donnas to go all out.

Comfort Zone

Look for Marchibroda to attempt to put Testaverde in a comfort zone with the no-huddle offense, where there is more emphasis on instinct and less on thinking. Why not? No Cleveland runner gained 550 yards last year and Leroy Hoard (547 yards and no touchdowns on just 136 carries) isn't about to become an overnight star. Veterans Earnest Byner (432 yards) and Lorenzo White (163 yards) combined for three TDs. The Ravens, who scored only five rushing touchdowns, didn't draft a running back. It was Marchibroda's idea to install the no-huddle when he was offensive coordinator in Buffalo, where the Bills carried it to four Super Bowls.

Without a viable running game, Testaverde somehow passed for 2,883 yards and 17 touchdowns with 10 interceptions. His quarterback rating of 87.8 was third-best in the conference and 10th in the NFL. Zeier, thrown into the fire, completed just over 50 percent of his passes with more than twice as many interceptions (9) as TDs (4). Zeier was also sacked 15 times, or two fewer than Testaverde, who attempted 231 more passes.

RAVENS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
43	Adams, Vashone	S	5-10	196	23	Eastern Michigan
85	Alexander, Derrick	WR	6-2	195	25	Michigan
70	Arvie, Herman	G	6-4	305	26	Grambling
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	34	Michigan St.
89	Bishop, Harold	TE	6-4	250	27	LSU
69	Blackshear, Jeff	G	6-6	323	28	NE Louisiana
24	Brady, Donny	CB	6-2	195	23	Wisconsin
77	Brown, Orlando	T	6-7	340	26	S. C. State
90	Burnett, Rob	DE	6-4	280	29	Syracuse
21	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	34	East Carolina
56	Caldwell, Mike	LB	6-2	235	25	Middle Tenn. St.
72	Dahl, Bob	G	6-5	300	28	Notre Dame
26	Davis, Mike	CB	6-0	195	25	Cincinnati
60	Devries, Jed	T	6-6	300	26	Utah State
97	Eaton, Chad	DT	6-4	292	25	Washington St.
16	Ethridge, Ray	WR	5-10	180	28	Pasadena City
61	Everitt, Steve	C	6-5	290	26	Michigan
78	Footman, Dan	DT	6-5	290	28	Florida State
88	Francisco, Paul	TE	6-6	236	27	Boston U.
94	Frederick, Mike	DE	6-5	280	24	Virginia
73	Goad, Tim	DT	6-3	280	31	North Carolina
28	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	33	Middle Tenn. St.
48	Hartley, Frank	TE	6-2	268	29	Illinois
33	Hoard, Leroy	RB	5-11	225	29	Michigan
23	Hunter, Earnest	RB	5-8	201	26	SE. Oklahoma St.
81	Jackson, Michael	WR	6-4	195	28	Southern Miss
41	Jacobs, Tim	CB	5-10	185	27	Delaware
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	33	Ohio State
66	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	295	31	Western Carolina
88	Kinchen, Brian	TE	6-2	240	31	LSU
38	Langham, Antonio	CB	6-0	180	24	Alabama
27	Moore, Stevon	S	5-11	210	30	Mississippi
67	Neujahr, Quentin	C	6-4	285	26	Kansas State
68	Palelei, Lonnie	G	6-3	320	26	UNLV
98	Pleasant, Anthony	DE	6-5	280	29	Tennessee St.
59	Powell, Craig	LB	6-4	224	25	Ohio State
22	Powers, Ricky	RB	6-0	213	25	Michigan
42	Riddick, Louis	S	6-2	215	28	Pittsburgh
80	Rison, Andre	WR	6-1	188	30	Michigan St.
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	29	Louisiana Tech
54	Sutter, Eddie	LB	6-3	235	27	Northwestern
12	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	227	33	Miami
20	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	191	32	Baylor
37	Thompson, Bennie	S	6-0	214	34	Grambling
29	Turner, Eric	S	6-1	207	28	UCLA
79	Webster, Larry	DE	6-5	288	28	Maryland
63	Williams, Wally	C	6-2	300	26	Florida A&M
10	Zeier, Eric	QB	6-0	205	24	Georgia

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Ogden, Jonathan	OT	6-7	315	UCLA
1	Lewis, Ray	LB	6-0	235	Miami
2	Jenkins, DeRon	CB	5-11	183	Tennessee
5	Lewis, Jermine	WR	5-7	170	Maryland
6	Daniels, Dexter	LB	6-1	240	Florida
6	Roe, James	WR	6-1	185	Norfolk State
7	Stark, Jon	QB	6-4	222	Trinity, IL

Center Stage

Rison owes Modell and his quarterbacks a big season. His signing signaled much sound and fury but signified very little. He caught a modest 47 passes for 701 yards and just three touchdowns following a 1,000-yard season on 81 catches in his final season with Atlanta. Rison has the stage pretty much to himself now, since the leading wide receiver, Keenan McCardell (56 catches), signed with Jacksonville. Byner led the club, with 61 receptions.

Michael Jackson numbered nine touchdowns among his 44 catches and averaged 16.2 yards, but he's too slim to catch much in traffic. So is rookie Jermaine Lewis, the speedy smurf drafted from Maryland. Lewis caught 21 touchdowns passes in college, so

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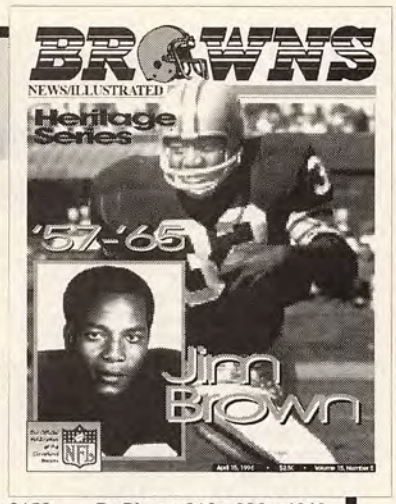

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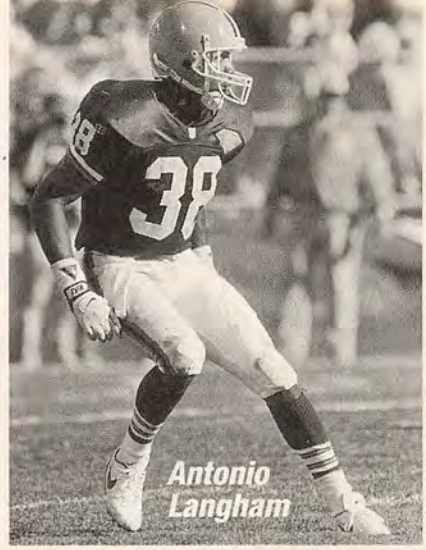

JC RIDLEY

he'll help somewhere. What Marchibroda needs most, though, is a big contribution from the disappointing Derrick Alexander, whose output dropped from 48 catches for 828 yards in 1994 to 15 for 216 a year ago. The best tight end in the organization remains Ozzie Newsome. The problem is, the personnel boss retired as a player five years ago.

Drop-Off

No unit of the Browns suffered from franchise-jump depression as much as the offensive line. Two years ago, it allowed just 14 sacks. Last year that figure inflated to 32 and its work in the running game was far from glittering. Ogden will be installed at left guard, alongside Jones. Center Steve Everitt needs to rebound from a disappointing year. Bob Dahl is the right guard with Orlando Brown at right tackle.

The pass rush slipped from 38 sacks in '94 to 29 and it's still a matter of the two starting defensive ends, Anthony Pleasant, who had eight sacks, and Rob Burnett, who had 7 1/2. The interior of the line is wanting, with Tim Goad, far from his Cincinnati peak, and Dan Footman, whose switch from end hasn't taken.

What the linebacking needs is swift development from Craig Powell, last year's surprise No. 1 draftee who held out, got hurt early, and then missed the final 13 games with a knee injury. Dexter Daniels from Florida's SEC champs, was drafted in the sixth round. Pepper Johnson still makes plays in the middle, but Gerald Dixon was lost to Cincinnati. Mike Caldwell is the other veteran starter. The outlook would be brighter if the University of Miami's speedy Ray Lewis, also a No. 1 pick, can make an immediate impact. Carl Banks at 34 is on the slippery slope.

Dubious Strength

If Turner is O.K., the Ravens' secondary is a strength since Antonio Langham is one of the better cornerbacks. Still, only Cincinnati and New England in the AFC had a worse ranking for pass defense. Tennessee Rookie DeRon Jenkins, for whom the Ravens traded three picks to Denver in order to move up in the draft, may push aging corner Don Griffin. Safety Stevon Moore had five interceptions and Vashone Adams, an undrafted rookie, stepped in to play well in Turner's place.

Playing the Percentages

Matt Stover's field-goal percentage, .879 on 29 of 33, was the best in the AFC, but his average attempt, 33.7 yards, was the shortest. Punter Tom Tupa signed with New England. The kickoff-return game was flabby and the punt returning was done by committee, which turned in a favorable 10.2-yard average.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Ted Marchibroda, Head Coach
Kirk Ferentz, Asst. Head Coach/Offense
Marvin Lewis, Defensive Coordinator
Pat Hill, Tight Ends/Offensive Line Assistant
Al Lavan, Running Backs
Mike Sheppard, Receivers
Don Strock, Quarterbacks
Eric Mangini, Quality Control, Offense
Maxie Baughan, Linebackers
Jacob Burney, Defensive Line
Alvin Reynolds, Secondary
Jim Schwartz, Quality Control, Defense
Scott O'Brien, Special Teams
John Settle, Strength & Conditioning/ Quality Control, Special Teams
Jerry Simmons, Strength & Conditioning

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WEEK 1

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OAKLAND RAIDERS ____	BALTIMORE BROWNS ____
ATLANTA FALCONS ____	CAROLINA PANTHERS ____
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ____	HOUSTON OILERS ____
PITTSBURGH STEELERS ____	J'VILLE JAGUARS ____
ARIZONA CARDINALS ____	INDIANAPOLISCOLTS ____
DETROIT LIONS ____	MINNESOTA IKINGS ____
CINCINNATI BENGALS ____	ST. LOUIS RAMS ____
PHILADELPHIA EAGLE S ____	WASH. REDSKINS ____
GREEN BAY PACKERS ____	T.B. BUCCANEERS ____
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ____	MIAMI DOLPHINS ____
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ____	SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS ____
NEW YORK JETS ____	DENVER BRONCOS ____
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS ____	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS ____
BUFFALO BILLS ____	NEW YORK GIANTS ____

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- The season will be 15 weeks long. You will be "Home" team 7 of those weeks and receive 5 additional points. (The 15th week there are no "Home" teams and no 5 additional points.
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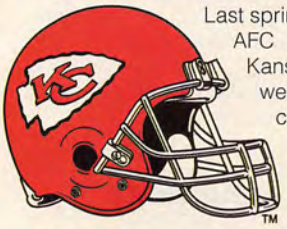


Last spring, in a poll of 14 AFC coaches, the Kansas City Chiefs were the popular choice to repeat as conference champions. Why? The almost unanimous answer was something like, "From what they did last season. They had the best record in the league."

Disappointing Finish

The Chiefs' 13-3 record was the best in the NFL, and only the absence of a reliable field-goal kicker prevented them, rather than the Colts, from dueling the Steelers for the right to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl. The name of Lin Elliott will live in infamy in Kansas City after he missed three field goals in a 10-7 loss to the Colts, right in Arrowhead Stadium, an arena which defines the term "home-field advantage."

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Elliott, 106 points on 34 extra points and 24 field goals 9th

RUSHING—Allen, 890 yards on 207 carries, 4.3 avg., 5 TDs.....8th

PASSING—Bono, 293 of 520 attempts for 3,121 yards and 21 TDs.....12th

RECEIVING—Anders, 55 receptions for 349 yards, 6.3 avg., 1 TD T22nd

INTERCEPTIONS—Carter, 4 for 45 yards, 11.3 average.....T10th

PUNTING—Aguiar, 91 punts, 43.8 avg., longest 65 yards.....3rd

PUNT RETURNS—Vanover, 51 for 540 yards, 10.6 average, 1 TD 4th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Vanover, 43 for 1,095 yards, 25.5 average, 2 TDs.....4th

SACKS—Smith, 12.0 sacks.....4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	vs. Dallas at Monterey, Mexico (N)
	10	NEW ORLEANS (N)
	17	ST. LOUIS (N)
	22	At Chicago (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Houston	20-13
	8	OAKLAND	23-17
	15	At Seattle	34-10
	22	DENVER	20-17
	29	At San Diego	22-7
October	7	PITTSBURGH (N)	
	13	OPEN DATE	
	17	SEATTLE (N)	26-3
	27	At Denver	21-7
November	3	At Minnesota	
	10	GREEN BAY	
	17	CHICAGO	
	24	SAN DIEGO	29-23
	28	At Detroit	
December	9	At Oakland (N)	29-23
	15	INDIANAPOLIS	
	22	At Buffalo	

TOMASSO DeROSA

Tamarick Vanover, the rookie who had three touchdowns on returns, could elevate the Chiefs' passing game.

Yet the doubters say there is more to the Chiefs' disappointment than kicking. There is a suspicion that Kansas City is spotlight-shy. Two of the three losses came down the stretch against playoff teams, in nationally televised games. There was the Thanksgiving Day loss to the Cowboys in Dallas followed by a Monday night loss to the Dolphins in Miami. The spotlight will shine on K.C. frequently this season.

Pro Bono

Then there is quarterback Steve Bono, one of the best stories of the 1995 season. After spending all of his NFL career as a backup, Bono became the surprise answer to what ailed the Chiefs offensively after Joe Montana retired. Kansas City won three overtime games in the first six weeks of the season with Bono the spark, and the entire team was energized by the experience. Yet Bono sagged down the stretch. He was intercepted three times in the second half of the playoff loss to Indy. For the season, he completed over 56 percent of his passes for 3,121 yards and 21 touchdowns with 10 interceptions.

Defense Is the Difference

Finally there is doubt about the coach, Marty Schottenheimer. There is no doubt that he can make bad teams better and mediocre teams first-rate. It's what happens in the postseason which hangs over his career. He is 5-9 in the playoffs at Cleveland and Kansas City. Not only is there doubt about his ability to win the big one, but also the semifinals and quarterfinals.

Yet, in a similar poll of coaches a year earlier, the Chiefs were picked to finish last in the AFC West. Overall, the big difference was defense. The Chiefs allowed only 241 points in 1995, 57 fewer than they had the

year before. More significantly, they were 86 points stingier than Pittsburgh and allowed nearly 100 fewer than Buffalo, the other AFC division champions. Kansas City surrendered no more than seven rushing touchdowns. The Chiefs allowed Indianapolis just 10 points in their playoff game, too, but the Colts won.

Money on the Line

The Chiefs didn't change much between seasons. They put their free-agent money on the line. More specifically, in the retention of the interior of their offensive line: center Tim Grunhard and guards Will Shields and Dave Szott. Many think it was a wise move, since the line is the strength of this team.

The Chiefs won the NFL ground-gaining title without a 1,000-yard rusher. Schottenheimer's formula is to do it by committee. Marcus Allen ran for 890 yards, Greg Hill for 667, and fullback Kimble Anders, selected to the Pro Bowl, for 398. Even Bono had a 76-yard bootleg for a touchdown against Arizona. Grunhard, Szott, and Shields were a big part of that. Schottenheimer thinks Shields can be one of the NFL's next great guards. Since last year's top draftee, Trezelle Jenkins, was active for just one game, John Alt and Jeff Criswell must do most of the playing at tackle.

Playmakers

Yet as important as offensive lines are, playmakers are still needed. The question about Bono is whether 1995 was the one spectacular season in an otherwise mediocre career or whether he is a late bloomer, ready to step up to that famous "next level" at the age of 34. Allen is 36, and he accounted for about 40 percent of the Chiefs' offense in the playoff game.

The passing attack is about as exciting as a Bob Dole campaign speech. Anders was the top receiver catcher, with 55 receptions that averaged 6.3 yards. Tight end Keith Cash was next, with 42 that averaged 10 yards. Lake Dawson and Webster Slaughter are mostly possession catchers and the most dangerous veteran, Willie Davis, signed with Houston.

What could put high-octane into the passing game is the development of Tamarick Vanover, the ex-Florida State star who came down from the Canadian League to terrify every special-teams coach in the NFL. As a rookie, Vanover scored three touchdowns on returns (two kickoffs and one punt). He caught only 11 passes, but two of them were for scores. He's scary.

Steve Bono

JOHN WILLIAMSON

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Marty Schottenheimer, Head Coach
Al Saunders, Asst. Head Coach/Receivers
Paul Hackett, Offensive Coordinator
Gunther Cunningham, Defensive Coordinator
Russ Ball, Asst. Strength & Conditioning
John Bunting, Linebackers
Jim Erkenbeck, Tight Ends
Carl Hairston, Defensive Line
Woodrow Lowe, Asst. Special Teams
Mike McCarthy, Quarterbacks
Jimmy Raye, Running Backs
Dave Redding, Strength & Conditioning
Kurt Schottenheimer, Defensive Backs
Art Shell, Offensive Line
Mike Stock, Special Teams
Darvin Wallis, Defensive Asst./Quality Control

Sack Time

The Chiefs recorded 47 sacks, second only to the Bills in the AFC. The big two, end Neil Smith (12 sacks) and linebacker Derrick Thomas (8), were joined by a third, tackle Dan Saleaumua (7), who provided the toughest inside pass rush in the league. Gunther Cunningham, the new defensive coordinator, turned things loose, and the result was havoc in the opposition's backfield. Joe Phillips is a strong and savvy tackle and Vaughn Booker, the ex-Canadian Leaguer, beat out Darren Mickell, now a Saint, at the other end.

Thomas is the best known of the Chiefs' linebackers. Tracy Simien starts in the middle and George Jamison on the left side, but Anthony Davis is developing while Troy Dumas and Jerrott Willard, 1995 draftees, return from injured reserve. UCLA star Donnie Edwards came in the current draft crop.

Drafting From Strength

Dale Carter, brilliant but erratic, is the left corner, with ex-Jets James Hasty at right corner and Brian Washington at strong safety. Mark Collins, who reconsidered his retirement, is the free safety, with William White in reserve. For a team that was No. 1 on defense, the Chiefs had an odd draft. The top four picks were defenders. The first, Jerome Woods, could contend as a safety. The second, Reggie Tongue, also figures in the competition.

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
5	Aguiar, Louis	P	6-2	219	30	Utah State
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	36	USC
76	Alt, John	T	6-8	307	34	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	RB	5-11	230	29	Houston
44	Anderson, Darren	CB	5-10	187	27	Toledo
88	Bailey, Victor	WR	6-2	203	25	Missouri
21	Bayless, Martin	S	6-2	219	33	Bowling Green
30	Bennett, Donnell	RB	6-0	241	23	Miami
14	Blundin, Matt	QB	6-6	233	27	Virginia
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	215	34	UCLA
99	Booker, Vaughn	DE	6-5	293	28	Cincinnati
34	Carter, Dale	CB	6-1	188	26	Tennessee
23	Carter, Perry	CB	5-11	206	24	Southern Miss
89	Cash, Keith	TE	6-4	242	26	Texas
43	Cobb, Trevor	RB	5-9	220	25	Rice
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	196	32	Cal-Fullerton
69	Criswell, Jeff	T	6-7	294	32	Graceland
50	Davis, Anthony	LB	6-0	231	27	Utah
80	Dawson, Lake	WR	6-1	207	24	Notre Dame
55	Dingle, Nate	LB	6-3	254	24	Cincinnati
96	Dumas, Troy	LB	6-3	233	24	Nebraska
2	Elliott, Lin	K	6-0	182	27	Texas Tech
89	Ellis, Elbert	WR	6-5	216	27	Pittsburgh
12	Gannon, Rich	QB	6-3	208	30	Delaware
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6-2	299	28	Notre Dame
40	Hasty, James	CB	6-0	201	31	Washington St.
29	Hill, Greg	RB	5-11	209	24	Texas A&M
93	Hill, Travis	LB	6-2	240	26	Nebraska
83	Hughes, Danan	WR	6-1	211	25	Iowa
57	Jamison, George	LB	6-1	235	33	Cincinnati
74	Jenkins, Trezelle	T	6-7	323	23	Michigan
88	LaChapelle, Sean	WR	6-3	205	25	UCLA
51	Manusky, Greg	LB	6-1	233	29	Colgate
77	McDaniels, Pellom	DE	6-3	292	28	Oregon State
9	Nittmo, Bjorn	K	5-11	185	29	Appalachian St.
81	Penn, Chris	WR	6-0	198	25	Tulsa
75	Phillips, Joe	DT	6-5	300	32	SMU
67	Proby, Bryan	DE	6-5	283	24	Arizona St.
27	Richardson, Bucky	RB	6-1	228	27	Texas A&M
49	Richardson, Tony	RB	6-1	224	24	Auburn
52	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6-2	241	28	Fresno St.
97	Saleaumua, Dan	DT	6-0	300	31	Arizona St.
68	Shields, Will	G	6-3	300	24	Nebraska
66	Siglar, Ricky	T	6-7	307	30	San Jose St.
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6-1	250	29	TCU
94	Sims, Tom	NT	6-2	308	29	Pittsburgh
85	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-1	175	32	San Diego St.
22	Smith, J.J.	RB	6-0	207	23	Kansas State
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	273	30	Nebraska
35	Swann, Charles	S	6-1	188	25	Indiana St.
79	Szott, David	G	6-4	290	28	Penn State
24	Terry, Doug	S	5-11	204	26	Kansas
58	Thomas, Derrick	LB	6-3	247	29	Alabama
94	Traylor, Keith	LB	6-2	290	26	Central Okla.
87	Vanover, Tamarick	WR	5-11	213	22	Florida State
72	Villa, Danny	G	6-5	308	31	Arizona St.
82	Walker, Derrick	TE	6-0	249	29	Michigan
48	Washington, Brian	S	6-1	210	30	Nebraska
35	White, William	S	5-10	205	30	Ohio State
95	Willard, Jerrott	LB	6-2	233	24	California
40	Williams, Robert	S	5-10	186	33	Baylor

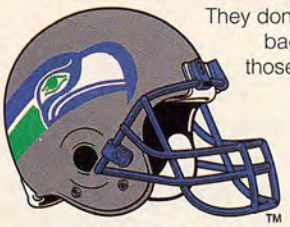
DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Woods, Jerome	DB	6-2	188	Memphis
2	Tongue, Reggie	S	6-0	193	Oregon State
3	Browning, John	DE	6-4	275	West Virginia
4	Edwards, Donnie	LB	6-3	230	UCLA
5	Horn, Joe	WR	6-2	190	Iatawamba JC
7	Lynch, Ben	C	6-3	292	California
7	Smith, Jeff	C	6-2	331	Tennessee
7	Williams, Darrell	DB	5-11	196	Tennessee St..

JC RIDLEY

Speedster Joey Galloway is a game-breaking receiver who forces defenses to adjust to him.

Seattle Seahawks



They don't cotton to carpetbaggers, particularly those from California, in the Northwest. That's why Ken Behring was always eyed warily in Seattle after he bought the Seahawks. Wary turned to rage last winter when Behring, claiming intense jitters about the possibilities of an earthquake up north, tried to move the Seahawks somewhere near the San Andreas Fault.

Normally, Seattle should be a team on the make with all its young stars and ambitious coach, Dennis Erickson. Stability started to go down the tubes when Behring ordered the off-season training and all the equipment to be shipped down to Anaheim. Erickson's big plans exploded in his face.

Stability in Seattle

But local billionaire Paul Allen has an option to buy out Behring that extends beyond this season, so the Seahawks appear set to stay in Seattle. If stability does return, the team could surge even this season since it thrives on home ownership. The franchise's most successful days were under the original owners, the Nordstrom family.

The Seahawks could use a little stability. They haven't made the playoffs since 1988. But now the roster is populated by young stars: running back Chris Warren, wide receiver Joey Galloway, defensive tackles Cortez Kennedy and Sam Adams, and Rick Mirer, the work-in-progress at quarterback.

Winning Style

In the last half of the season, Seattle was 6-2 on its way to an 8-8 record after a 2-6 start. Not bad for a team with a rookie pro coach who underwent a traumatic quarterback change and then suffered a franchise owner with itchy feet. The Seahawks scored at least 26 points in seven of their victories.

The late-season improvement was understandable. Erickson had no NFL experience before he took the Seattle job. Neither did seven of his assistants. It was on-the-job education for the boss and his aides. Erickson owns Coach of the Year awards from the Pac-10, Big East, and Big Sky Conferences. In his entire head coaching career, beginning at the University of Idaho in 1982, he had only one losing season. He's a quick study.

Quarterback Draw

The shakiest part of the closing streak was that Mirer, who many think *is* the franchise, lost his job to journeyman John Friesz. Erickson, to his credit, stabilized matters right after the season by declaring that Mirer would return in 1996 as the starter, despite Friesz's sound play. One of the NFL newcomers on Erickson's staff was quarter-

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Peterson,109 points on 40 extra points and 23 field goals 8th

RUSHING—Warren, 1,346 yards on 310 carries, 4.3 avg., 15 TDs.....2nd

PASSING—Mirer, 209 of 391 attempts for 2,564 yards and 13 TDs 14th

RECEIVING—Blades, 77 receptions for 1,001 yards, 13.0 avg., 4 TDs.....6th

INTERCEPTIONS—Blackmon, 5 for 46 yards, 9.2 average.....T6th

PUNTING—Tuten, 83 punts, 45.0 avg., longest 73 yards.....1st

PUNT RETURNS—Galloway, 36 for 360 yards, 10.0 average 8th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Broussard, 43 for 1,064 yards, 24.7 average 6th

SACKS—Kennedy, 6.5 sacks T22nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	ATLANTA (N)
	8	At Oakland
	17	At Indianapolis (N)
	23	SAN FRANCISCO (N)

1996 SCHEDULE			1995 SCORES
September	1	At San Diego	10-14
	8	DENVER	27-10
	15	KANSAS CITY	10-34
	22	At Tampa Bay	
	29	GREEN BAY	
October	6	At Miami	-
	17	At Kansas City (N)	3-26
	27	SAN DIEGO	25-35
November	3	HOUSTON	
	10	MINNESOTA	
	17	At Detroit	
	24	OAKLAND	44-10
December	1	At Denver	31-27
	8	BUFFALO	21-27
	15	At Jacksonville (N)	47-30
	22	At Oakland	14-34

backs coach Rich Olson. Mirer and Olson are still getting to know each other, but in his 19-year college coaching career, Olson worked for such luminaries as Jim Sweeney, John Robinson, Ron Meyer, and Lou Holtz, so he knows something about dealing with young quarterbacks.

Mirer got lost in Erickson's new offense, throwing almost as many interceptions as he had in his first two pro seasons. He also was sacked 42 times. Friesz became the great stabilizer. "Physically, he's got all the tools," said Erickson of Mirer. "He's going to be successful in this league. It's just a matter of time." At the same time, the coach reserves the right to use Friesz, whom he considered a playoff-caliber quarterback, again if Mirer needs bailing out.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Dennis Erickson, Head Coach
Gregg Smith, Asst. Head Coach/Tight Ends
Bob Bratkowski, Offensive Coordinator/ Wide Receivers
Greg McMackin, Defensive Coordinator
Dave Arnold, Special Teams
Tommy Brasher, Defensive Line
Dave Brown, Defensive Coach
Keith Gilbertson, Defensive Assistant
Ned James, Offensive Staff Assistant
Dana LeDuc, Strength & Conditioning
Howard Mudd, Offensive Line
Rich Olson, Quarterbacks
Mike Murphy, Linebackers
Willy Robinson, Defensive Backs
Clarence Shelmon, Running Backs

Game-Breakers

Galloway, world-class fast, had a strong rookie year with 67 catches for 1,039 yards and seven touchdowns, along with an 89-yard punt return for a touchdown. He's a game-breaker who causes opposing defensive coordinators to adjust to him. The other receiver, Brian Blades, was also a 1,000-yard man on his 77 catches, but his future is clouded by a manslaughter conviction in Florida. An undistinguished group of reserves caught just 23 passes among them. So the Seahawks could be scrambling for help. Tight end is a hybrid. Between them, Carlester Crumpler and Christian Fauria, two youngsters, caught 40 passes.

The beauty part of the Seattle offense is that it's well-balanced. Chris Warren produced 1,346 yards, second in the AFC, and 15 touchdowns. The line, coached by the well regarded veteran Howard Mudd, does a precision job of creating opportunities for Warren, who knows how to seize the moment.

Major Overhaul

Not so beautiful was the pass protection. This season there will be a major overhaul in the interior of the offensive line. Kevin Mawae moves from guard to center, the position for which he was originally drafted. Derrick Graham, signed from Carolina, becomes the right guard, with the No. 1 draftee, Pete Kendall, at left guard. Jim Sweeney, who started at center, becomes the swing man at guard and center. Howard Ballard is one tackle. With Ray Roberts having signed with Detroit, James Atkins becomes the permanent tackle on the othe side.

Tightening Up

The defense allowed 21 of its 26 touchdown passes in the first nine games. Overall, the defense surrendered 354 yards per game. The second-half improvement was at the expense of five of the league's poorest offenses (Giants, Jets, Jaguars, Eagles, and Redskins). This year the schedule substitutes such explosive teams as Green Bay, Minnesota, Miami, and Detroit.

Erickson worked a trade for Glenn Montgomery of Houston, bolstering a unit which already boasted Pro Bowler Cortez Kennedy and Sam Adams. The pass rush produced just 28 sacks. End Michael Sinclair had 5 1/2, but there isn't much else from the outside. The other end is Antonio Edwards. The linebacking is solid with Terry Wooden, Winston Moss, and Dean Wells.

Safety First

The major improvement on the defense is in the secondary. Darryl Williams, the slick free safety from Cincinnati, was signed. He should take over for Eugene Robinson. The Seahawks applied the franchise designa-

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tion to keep strong safety Robert Blackmon. The corners are Carlton Gray and Corey Harris, but Nate Odomes, the one-time Buffalo star, could represent a bonus. Odomes, who suffered knee injuries before each of the last two seasons and never suited up for the Seahawks, was pronounced 100 percent at the team's spring mini-camp, but he was untested by contact. Odomes went to the Pro Bowl in his final two seasons as a Bill.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
98	Adams, Sam	DT	6-3	285	24	Texas A&M
74	Atkins, James	T	6-6	303	27	SW Louisiana
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	332	33	Alabama A&M
54	Barber, Michael	LB	6-1	247	25	Clemson
20	Bellamy, Jay	S	5-11	193	24	Rutgers
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	251	34	USC
25	Blackmon, Robert	S	6-0	203	30	Baylor
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	186	31	Miami
31	Broussard, Steve	RB	5-7	201	30	Washington St.
29	Brown, Tony	CB	5-9	183	27	Fresno State
27	Covington, Tony	S	5-11	193	29	Virginia
87	Crumpler, Carlester	TE	6-6	255	25	East Carolina
94	Edwards, Antonio	DE	6-3	270	27	Valdosta St.
85	Fauria, Christian	TE	6-5	245	25	Colorado
17	Friesz, John	QB	6-4	220	30	Idaho
84	Galloway, Joey	WR	5-11	188	25	Ohio State
8	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	34	Maryland
74	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	315	30	Appalachian St.
26	Gray, Carlton	CB	6-0	196	26	UCLA
30	Harris, Corey	CB	5-11	195	27	Vanderbilt
81	Harris, Ronnie	WR	5-11	180	27	Oregon
24	Jones, Selwyn	CB	6-0	185	27	Colorado St.
77	Joyce, Matt	T	6-7	283	25	Richmond
83	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	241	36	Louisiana Tech
78	Keim, Mike	T	6-7	302	31	BYU
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT	6-3	293	28	Miami
57	Kyle, Jason	LB	6-3	240	25	Arizona St.
56	Logan, James	LB	6-2	210	24	Baylor
52	Mawae, Kevin	G	6-4	288	26	LSU
99	McCrary, Michael	DE	6-4	267	26	Wake Forest
82	McKnight, James	WR	6-0	186	25	Liberty
92	McMillian, Henry	DT	6-3	275	25	Florida
3	Mirer, Rick	QB	6-2	211	27	Notre Dame
94	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6-0	282	30	Houston
55	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	245	31	Miami
72	Nash, Joseph	DT	6-3	278	36	Boston College
66	Norman, Todd	G	6-5	300	25	Notre Dame
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	31	Wisconsin
2	Peterson, Todd	K	5-10	180	27	Georgia
88	Proehl, Ricky	WR	6-0	190	29	Wake Forest
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	195	34	Colgate
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE	6-4	271	29	East. New Mexico
36	Smith, Lamar	RB	5-11	224	26	Houston
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	242	32	Penn State
38	Strong, Mack	RB	6-0	222	25	Georgia
53	Sweeney, Jim	C	6-4	284	34	Pittsburgh
86	Thomas, Robb	WR	5-11	175	31	Oregon St.
14	Tuten, Rick	P	6-2	218	32	Florida State
42	Warren, Chris	RB	6-2	226	30	Ferrum
95	Wells, Dean	LB	6-3	242	26	Kentucky
93	Williams, Brent	DE	6-4	283	32	Toledo
31	Williams, Darryl	S	6-0	191	27	Miami
90	Wooden, Terry	LB	6-3	239	30	Syracuse

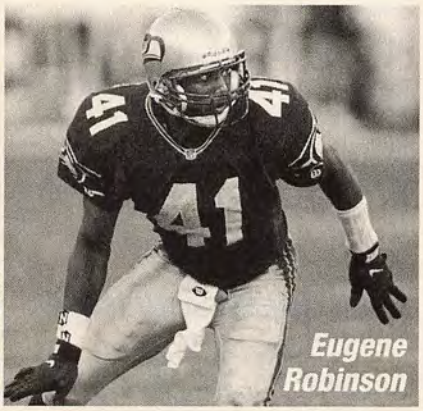
DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Kendall, Peter	G	6-5	287	Boston College
2	Thomas, Fred	CB	5-9	172	UT-Martin
3	Barr, Robert	OT	6-5	312	Rutgers
3	Brown, Reggie	FB	6-0	242	Fresno State
4	Daniels, Phillip	DE	6-5	257	Georgia
4	Unverzagt, Eric	LB	6-1	236	Wisconsin
6	Green, Reggie	G	6-4	300	Florida
6	Cunningham, T.J.	CB	6-0	190	Colorado
7	Church, Johnie	DE	6-2	265	Florida

Special Delivery

Punter Rick Tuten's 45-yard average led the league. Todd Peterson hit 23 of 28 field goals in his debut. Galloway and Steve Broussard make the return game dangerous, but the coverage needs improvement.

Beyond Kendall, it was a faceless draft, but Erickson thinks he'll get eventual use out of Tennessee-Martin defensive back Fred Thomas, Rutgers tackle Robert Barr, Fresno State running back Reggie Brown, Georgia defensive end Phillip Daniels, and Wisconsin linebacker Eric Unverzagt.



JOHN WILLIAMSON

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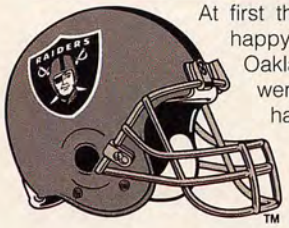
Oakland Raiders



At first the Raiders were happy to be back in Oakland. Later they were both fat and happy. In the first half of the season, only one opposing runner gained 100 yards against them. In the second half, there were a half dozen runners who gained at least 100 yards against them. And what appeared to be a certain spot in the playoffs became a mortifying lost opportunity during a season-ending six-game losing streak.

Let's Get Physical

That old Silver and Black magic was not recaptured at Oakland-Alameda Country Stadium. On the contrary, Oakland fans who had far better memories of the team spoke of the Raiders of the '90s as "wimps" and "heartless." Coach Mike White later admitted that his team "was not physical" down the stretch. That's one reason the Raiders spent their free-agency money on defense, signing two Dallas starters, cornerback Larry Brown and tackle Russell Maryland. Neither is a superstar, but Maryland's work ethic may do something to spur the incumbent tackles, Chester McGlockton and Jerry Ball, who were so well-fed in the second half that there wasn't a hint of hunger.

Hoss and Billy Joe

There was an expectation of a more dramatic move. That is, a new quarterback. The word was that team owner Al Davis lusted for Jim Harbaugh, the Colts' comeback star, but in the end the Raiders settled on 35-year-old Jeff Hostetler, despite his battered state. Davis had no choice. White hasn't done a sufficient development job on Billy Joe Hobert, who ended up starting at the end of last season. The Raiders tried to pretend that Vince Evans is the incarnation of George Blanda. He isn't.

The Raiders could do a lot worse than Hoss. He's a survivor and his teams usually survive along with him. He came into the NFL as the Giants' third-round bargain in 1984, came out of the shadows to win the 1990 Super Bowl, and then made the Raiders

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Jaeger, 61 points on 22 extra points and 13 field goals.....21st

RUSHING—Williams, 1,114 yards on 255 carries, 4.4 avg., 9 TDs.....4th

PASSING—Hostetler, 172 of 286 attempts for 1,998 yards and 12 TDs.....8th

RECEIVING—Brown, 89 receptions for 1,342 yards, 15.1 avg., 10 TDs.....3rd

INTERCEPTIONS—McDaniel, 6 for 46 yards, 7.7 average, 1 TD.....T2nd

PUNTING—Gossett, 75 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 60 yards.....11th

PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 36 for 364 yards, 10.1 average.....6th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Kaufman, 22 for 572 yards, 26.0 average, 1 TD.....3rd

SACKS—Swilling, 13.0 sacks.....2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	At Dallas (N)
August	2	At Green Bay (N)
	8	SEATTLE
	15	At Atlanta (N)
	23	N.Y. JETS (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	At Baltimore	
	8	At Kansas City	17-23
	15	JACKSONVILLE	
	22	SAN DIEGO	17-7
	29	At Chicago	
October	6	At N.Y. Jets	47-10
	13	DETROIT	
	21	At San Diego (N)	6-12
	27	Open Date	
November	4	DENVER (N)	28-31
	10	At Tampa Bay	
	17	MINNESOTA (N)	
	24	At Seattle	10-44
December	1	MIAMI	
	9	KANSAS CITY (N)	23-29
	15	At Denver	0-27
	22	SEATTLE	34-14

ROBERT LEITER

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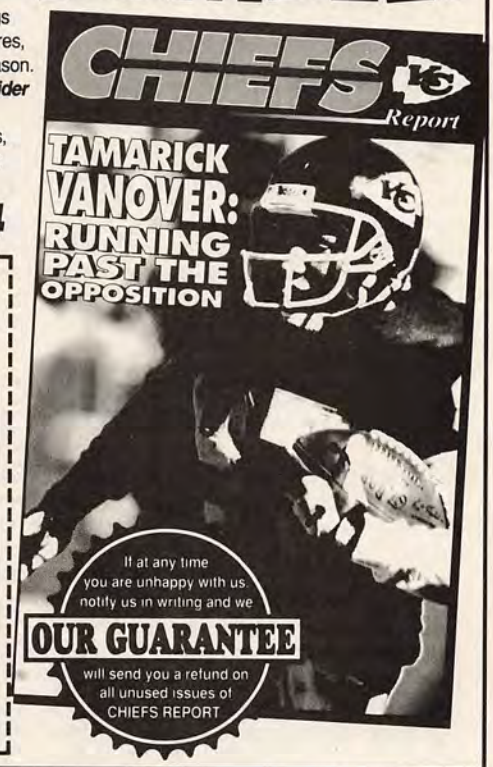

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respectable again. Despite his injuries last year, he completed over 60 percent of his throws for 1,998 yards and 12 touchdowns and finished with a passer rating (82.2) higher than any AFC West quarterback except Denver's John Elway. The Raiders were headed for the playoffs when Hostetler was healthy. He grew to like the West Coast offense, too.

Caught in the Draft

Davis is doing his best to help Hostetler. He manuevered in the draft to get Rickey Dudley, the huge Ohio State tight end who eventually could give them the sort of performances they once got from Raymond Chester, Dave Casper, and Todd Christensen. Oakland does not like to play rookies, but exceptions are made in rare cases. Dudley may be one of those cases. The tight end means too much to the preservation of Hostetler's body not to use Dudley a great deal, if not start him.

Protection

His blockers almost got Hostetler killed last year. He needs much better protection if the Raiders are to be a serious contender. Tackle Gerald Perry never seems to be able to decide whether he wants to stay or leave. When he's good, he's very good. Steve Wisniewski made the Pro Bowl again. Kevin Gogan is the other guard. Barret Robbins should make a bid to be the starting center in his second season. Charles McRae, a flop in Philadelphia, was signed to compete for the starting job at right tackle. The Raiders also traded with New England for tackle Pat Harlow.

Harvey Williams ran for a fairly quiet 1,114 yards. Last year's No. 1 draft choice, Napoleon Kaufman, showed promise, with 490 yards and a 4.5-yard per-carry average. He was third in the NFL in kickoff returns (26.0).

Tim Brown

JOHN WILLIAMSON

Raiders of the Lost Arc

Davis reluctantly allowed White to run the West Coast offense last season despite the presence of all those sprinters on his wide-out roster. Pro Bowler Tim Brown was the only one who flourished, with 89 catches and 10 touchdowns. The Raiders are getting impatient with Rocket Ismail, whose 28 catches and three scores don't pay the rent. Williams was the next-leading receiver with 54 catches, mostly dinks.

Untraditional

If the coaches can't find some way to make more dramatic use of the Rocket, Hostetler may rely more heavily on Daryl Hobbs, a possession receiver who can run after the catch. Hobbs developed somewhat last year, averaging 16.1 yards on his 38 receptions and scoring three touchdowns.

Defensive Swoon

The Raiders' defensive statistics don't appear alarming at first notice, but check out the scores in that swoon at the end. In five of the games, the defense surrendered at least 29 points. The other game was a 12-6 loss to San Diego. The Raiders still have the potential for big-play defense. They had 43 sacks, many of them early. Except for Buffalo's Bryce Paup, no defensive free agent had more impact than Pat Swilling, who was signed just before the season began and then contributed 13 sacks. Anthony Smith, the other end, had seven and McGlockton 7 1/2. Aundray Bruce is available. Maryland could make Jerry Ball expendable.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Mike White, Head Coach
Joe Bugel, Assistant Head Coach
Fred Biletnikoff, Quality Control
John Fox, Defensive Coordinator
Garrett Giemont, Strength & Conditioning
John Guy, Defensive Assistant
Bishop Harris, Running Backs
Larry Kennan, Quarterbacks
Bill Meyers, Administrative Asst. Tight Ends
Floyd Peters, Defensive Line
Steve Shafer, Defensive Backfield
Kevin Spencer, Quality Control, Defense
Rusty Tillman, Special Teams
Fred Whittingham, Linebackers

Rob Frederickson and Greg Biekert are the top linebackers, with James Folston coming up on the outside. Lance Johnstone, this spring's second-round draftee, needs more time to develop.

Cornering the Market

Cornerback Terry McDaniel made his fourth straight appearance in the Pro Bowl, but Larry Brown may push Albert Lewis inside to safety. Eddie Anderson and Derrick Hoskins, neither of whom had an outstanding year, are the incumbent safeties. Lorenzo Lynch was signed signed for the Cardinals for $1 million a year to play strong safety. He accounted for one of Arizona's four victories last year when he returned an interception 72 yards for a touchdown to beat Seattle in overtime.

On Average

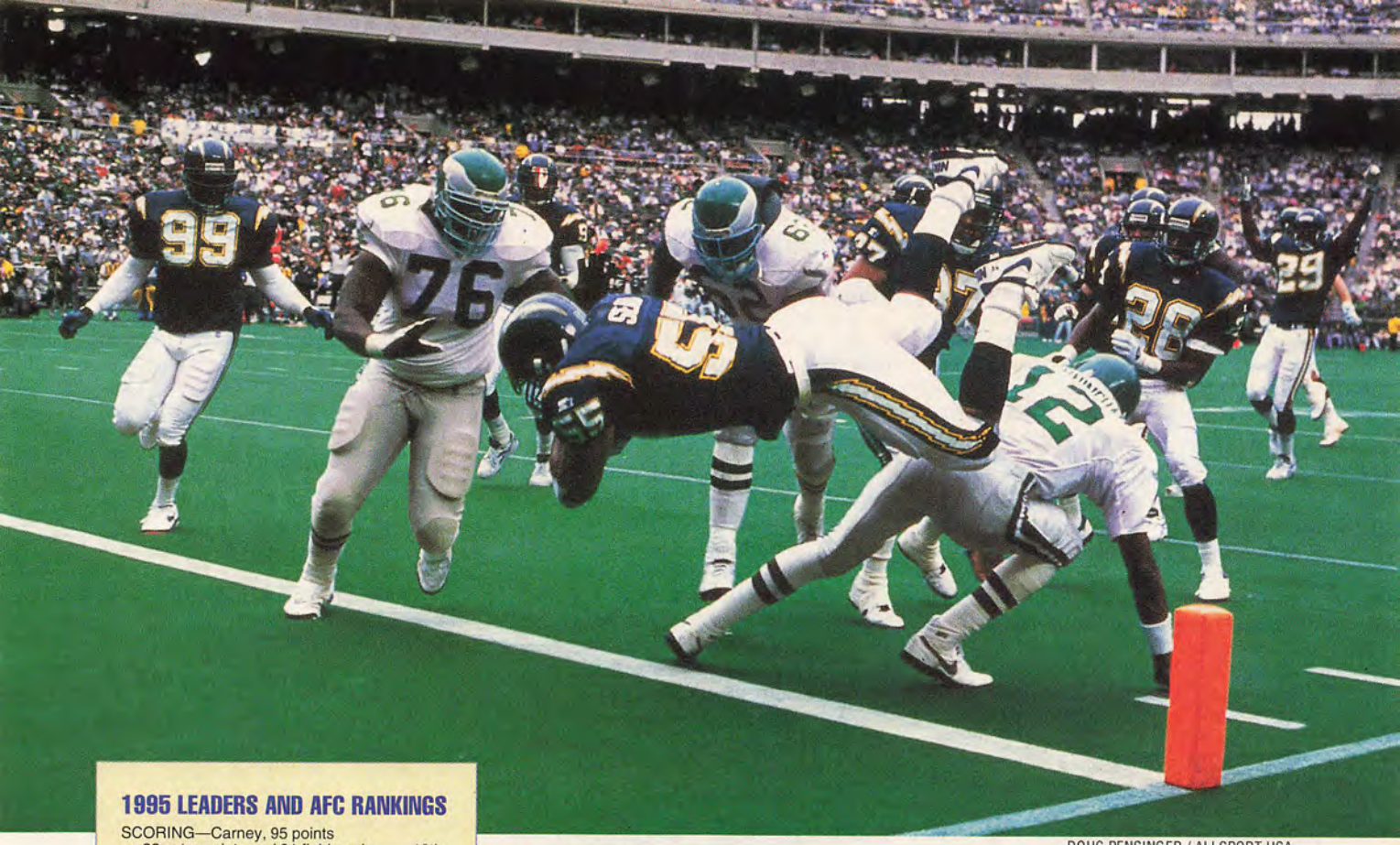
Both place-kicker Jeff Jaeger (13 of 18 field goals) and punter Jeff Gossett (41.2-yard average) had mediocre years. Kaufman returned a kickoff for a touchdown but the Rocket didn't average 20 yards per return. Tim Brown was among the AFC's leading punt returners.

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	210	33	Fort Valley St.
35	Aska, Joe	RB	5-10	230	24	Central Okla.
42	Ball, Eric	RB	6-2	225	31	UCLA
93	Ball, Jerry	DT	6-1	315	32	SMU
54	Biekert, Greg	LB	6-3	240	28	Colorado
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	186	27	TCU
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	30	Notre Dame
99	Bruce, Aundray	DE	6-5	265	31	Auburn
29	Carrington, Darren	S	6-2	204	30	N. Arizona
88	Cash, Kerry	TE	6-4	245	27	Texas
59	Dyson, Matt	DT	6-3	265	24	Michigan
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	215	42	USC
34	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6-3	240	30	North Carolina
55	Folston, James	LB	6-3	235	25	NE Louisiana
5	Ford, Cole	K	6-2	195	24	USC
58	Franklin, Keith	LB	6-2	230	27	South Carolina
53	Fredrickson, Rob	LB	6-4	240	26	Michigan St.
70	Freeman, Russell	T	6-7	290	27	Georgia Tech
87	Glover, Andrew	TE	6-6	250	29	Grambling
66	Gogan, Kevin	G	6-7	320	32	Washington
7	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	195	40	Eastern Illinois
8	Graham, Jeff	QB	6-5	220	31	Long Beach St.
77	Harlow, Pat	T	6-6	290	28	USC
74	Harrison, Nolan	DT	6-5	280	28	Indiana
85	Hinton, Marcus	TE	6-4	260	25	Alcorn St.
80	Hobbs, Daryl	WR	6-2	180	29	Pacific
9	Hobert, Billy Joe	QB	6-3	230	26	Washington
57	Holmberg, Rob	LB	6-3	225	26	Penn State
34	Hoskins, Derrick	S	6-2	210	26	Southern Miss
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6-3	215	35	West Virginia
86	Ismail, Raghib	WR	5-11	175	27	Notre Dame
18	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	195	32	Washington
64	Jenkins, Robert	T	6-5	295	33	UCLA
82	Jett, James	WR	5-10	165	26	West Virginia
44	Jones, Calvin	RB	5-11	205	26	Nebraska
52	Jones, Mike	LB	6-1	230	28	Missouri
26	Kaufman, Napoleon	RB	5-9	185	24	Washington
46	Kidd, Carl	CB	6-1	205	24	Arkansas
31	King, Joe	S	6-2	195	29	Oklahoma St.
79	Kysar, Jeff	T	6-7	320	25	Arizona St.
25	Land, Dan	S	6-0	195	31	Albany St.
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	195	36	Grambling
29	Lynch, Lorenzo	S	5-11	200	34	Sacramento St.
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	279	28	Miami
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	180	32	Tennessee
91	McGlockton, C	DT	6-4	315	27	Clemson
70	McRae, Charles	T	6-7	306	28	Tennessee
50	Morton, Mike	LB	6-4	235	25	North Carolina
71	Perry, Gerald	T	6-6	305	32	Southern
39	Pickens, Bruce	CB	5-11	195	29	Nebraska
95	Robbins, Austin	DT	6-6	290	26	North Carolina
63	Robbins, Barret	C	6-3	305	23	TCU
94	Smith, Anthony	DE	6-3	265	30	Arizona
77	Stephens, Rich	T	6-7	310	32	Tulsa
56	Swilling, Pat	DE	6-3	245	32	Georgia Tech
37	Trapp, James	CB	6-0	185	27	Clemson
67	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	290	35	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, Aaron	DE	6-3	245	30	Texas A&M
33	Watson, Tim	S	6-1	215	26	Howard
22	Williams, Harvey	RB	6-2	215	30	LSU
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6-4	285	30	Penn State

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Dudley, Rickey	TE	6-7	220	Ohio State
2	Johnstone, Lance	LB	6-4	245	Temple
5	Glover, La'Roi	DT	6-1	275	San Diego St.
6	Hall, Tim	RB	5-11	219	Robert Morris
7	Clark, Sedric	DE	6-2	249	Tulsa
7	Smith, Darius	C	6-2	270	Sam Houston St.
7	Wylie, Joey	G	6-2	299	Stephen F. Austin



DOUG PENSINGER / ALLSPORT USA

Junior Seau, the Chargers' superstar linebacker, sets the tone for the entire defense with his all-out play.

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Carney, 95 points on 32 extra points and 21 field goals 13th

RUSHING—Means, 730 yards on 186 carries, 3.9 avg., 5 TDs.....12th

PASSING—Humphries, 282 of 478 attempts for 3,381 yards and 17 TDs.....11th

RECEIVING—Martin, 90 receptions for 1,224 yards, 13.6 avg., 6 TDs.....2nd

INTERCEPTIONS—Harrison, 5 for 22 yards, 4.4 average.....T6th

PUNTING—Bennett, 72 punts, 44.7 avg., longest 66 yards.....2nd

PUNT RETURNS—Coleman, 28 for 326 yards, 11.6 average, 1 TD.....1st

KICKOFF RETURNS—Coleman, 62 for 1,411 yards, 22.8 average, 2 TDs...10th

SACKS—O'Neal, 12.5 sacks.....3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	vs. Pittsburgh at Tokyo, Japan (N)
August	3	At Minnesota (N)
	10	At San Francisco (N)
	17	ARIZONA (N)
	23	At St. Louis (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	SEATTLE	14-10
	8	CINCINNATI	
	15	At Green Bay	
	22	At Oakland	7-17
	29	KANSAS CITY	7-22
October	6	At Denver	27-30
	13	Open Date	
	21	OAKLAND (N)	12-6
	27	At Seattle	35-25
November	3	At Indianapolis	27-24
	11	DETROIT (N)	
	17	TAMPA BAY	
	24	At Kansas City	23-29
December	1	NEW ENGLAND (N)	
	8	At Pittsburgh	16-31
	14	At Chicago	
	22	DENVER (N)	17-6

San Diego Chargers

The cast keeps changing, but this time the turnover may have been injurious to the Chargers' playoff chances. You can barely recognize this team from the squad that played in the Super Bowl just two years ago.

Discharged

Natrone Means, the one-time wonder back, was run off. Leslie O'Neal, who accounted for a third of the Chargers' sacks, is now a St. Louis Ram. Harry Swayne, the offensive tackle for whom the Chargers matched a big offer sheet from Arizona three years ago, was run off. Collectively, 156 pass receptions were jettisoned, with two receivers, Mark Seay and Shawn Jefferson, and the long-time third-down back, Ronnie Harmon, exiled. Dennis Gibson, the linebacker whose diving pass deflection sent the Chargers to their only Super Bowl, was put on the street.

GM Tough

Bobby Beathard, the well-respected general manager, has played the football lottery for a few years. Weeks after the Super Bowl loss to San Francisco, both safeties were gone. Beathard regularly trades next year's first-round draft pick for someone he likes in the second round.

Beathard is a tough man to second-guess, but right now the Chargers look a little hollow. In fact they looked hollow last Thanksgiving when they stood in last place in the AFC West with a 4-7 record. Then they began to play improved defense, won some tight games, and ended up in the playoffs again. A repeat of that feat will be difficult.

Solid State

The Chargers really don't have one particular strength any longer. They are sort of middle of the road in everything. They still have a superstar linebacker in Junior Seau, a steady quarterback in Stan Humphries, a strong kicking game, and about a dozen other solid starters. The rest are mostly players with potential yet unrealized. It doesn't add up to serious contender.

Beathard is placing a lot of the Chargers' eggs in the basket of coach Bobby Ross, who has established a reputation as a strong motivator and teacher. The teacher part will be essential this season since he will be using so many inexperienced players.

Glorious Tradition

The Chargers' history is filled with glorious wide receivers like Hall of Famers Lance Alworth and Charlie Joiner; Anthony Miller, Gary Garrison, and Wes Chandler. None of them ever caught as many passes in one season as Tony Martin did last year: 90.

Martin is Beathard's triumph. The GM traded a draft choice to Miami for Martin, who had diligently worked his way up through the development squads with the Jets and the Dolphins.

Now Martin has to be prepared for blanket coverages. The position across from him will be occupied by Jimmy Oliver, Bryan Still, or 'Omar Ellison. Among them they have a total of two career catches in the NFL. Oliver, hurt most of his rookie season, and Still, the top draft choice, would look fine on a 400-meter relay team. Neither is big or had outstanding college careers. It's their speed which attracted Beathard. Still had a great game for Virginia Tech against Texas in the Sugar Bowl, scoring on a long pass play and breaking open the game with a 60-yard punt return.

Andre Coleman, the spectacular kick returner, is a possibility despite just three receptions a year ago. The draft also brings Brian Roche, a pass-catching tight end, which is rare now for the Chargers. He had 66 receptions for San Jose State in '95. Alfred Pupunu is the blocking tight end.

Offensive Charge

Quarterback Stan Humphries gets the job done. He didn't finish among the top 10 passers, but it was he who led the late-season push. The Chargers averaged 28 points in the last four games. They scored as many as that only once in the previous 12 games. Humphries threw for 3,381 yards and 17 touchdowns with 14 interceptions.

Humphries received decent protection, but there is a major worry about the most important line position: left tackle. The plan is to play either Tony Berti, who was inactive for all but one game as a rookie, or Troy Sienkiewicz, who didn't play at all. If that doesn't work, Vaughn Parker, who won the starting job at right tackle only late last season, could be switched to the left side. Still in the development stage, Parker is a better pass blocker than run blocker.

Stan Humphries

JOE ROBBINS

Courtney Hall is the anchor at center with Eric Moten and Joe Cocozzo at the guards. No premium draft choices were used for offensive linemen.

Backfield in Motion

Means was dropped because Ross feels that Aaron Hayden will perform just about as well in the running attack. Hayden, whose college career at Tennessee was limited because of injuries and the presence of Charlie Garner and James Stewart, carried 128 times as a rookie and gained 470 yards. He doesn't appear to have Means's burst. His longest run was 20 yards. Terrell Fletcher, who replaces Harmon as the third-down back, caught only three passes as a rookie and carried the ball just 26 times. That's a big drop from Harmon's 63 receptions and 51 carries.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Bobby Ross, Head Coach
Dave Adolph, Defense Coordinator
Bryan Baker, Defensive Line
Ralph Friedgen, Offensive Coordinator
Greg Brown, Secondary
Sylvester Croom, Offensive Backs
John Dunn, Strength & Conditioning
Frank Falks, Tight Ends/H-Backs
Jack Henry, Offense Line
Dale Lindsey, Linebackers
John Misciagna, Quality Control
Dennis Murphy, Defensive Assistant
Dwain Painter, Quarterbacks
Chuck Priefer, Special Teams
Jerry Sullivan, Wide Receivers

Positive Notes

The most positive defensive note of the offseason was the signing of Miami pass rusher Marco Coleman, who starred for Ross at Georgia Tech. The Chargers think he'll put some fizz in the pass rush, but he didn't do that consistently with the Dolphins. He recorded 6 1/2 sacks for a team that required much more.

With O'Neal gone, the most impressive incumbent pass rusher is tackle Shawn Lee, who had eight sacks and became a priority for the Chargers to re-sign. Reuben Davis is a fine partner for Lee inside. Chris Mims was out of shape and needed an attitude adjustment last season, but if he gets his act together, he could be the best man in this group. Raylee Johnson may be about to blossom at the other end.

Setting the Tone

Seau sets the tone for the entire defense, and the best thing that might happen to San Diego is for him to play the entire season in a healthy state. Kurt Gouveia, a smart veteran who had a good year for Philadelphia, was signed as a free agent and will probably start in the middle. The other outside assignment is a tossup among Lewis Bush, Glen Young, and rookie Patrick Sapp.

Cornerback is a major strength with Dwayne Harper, Willie Clark, Terrance Shaw, and Darrien Gordon, who returns after missing the season due to shoulder surgery. Shaun Gayle and Kevin Ross, signed from Atlanta, bring experience to the safety positions.

Special Players

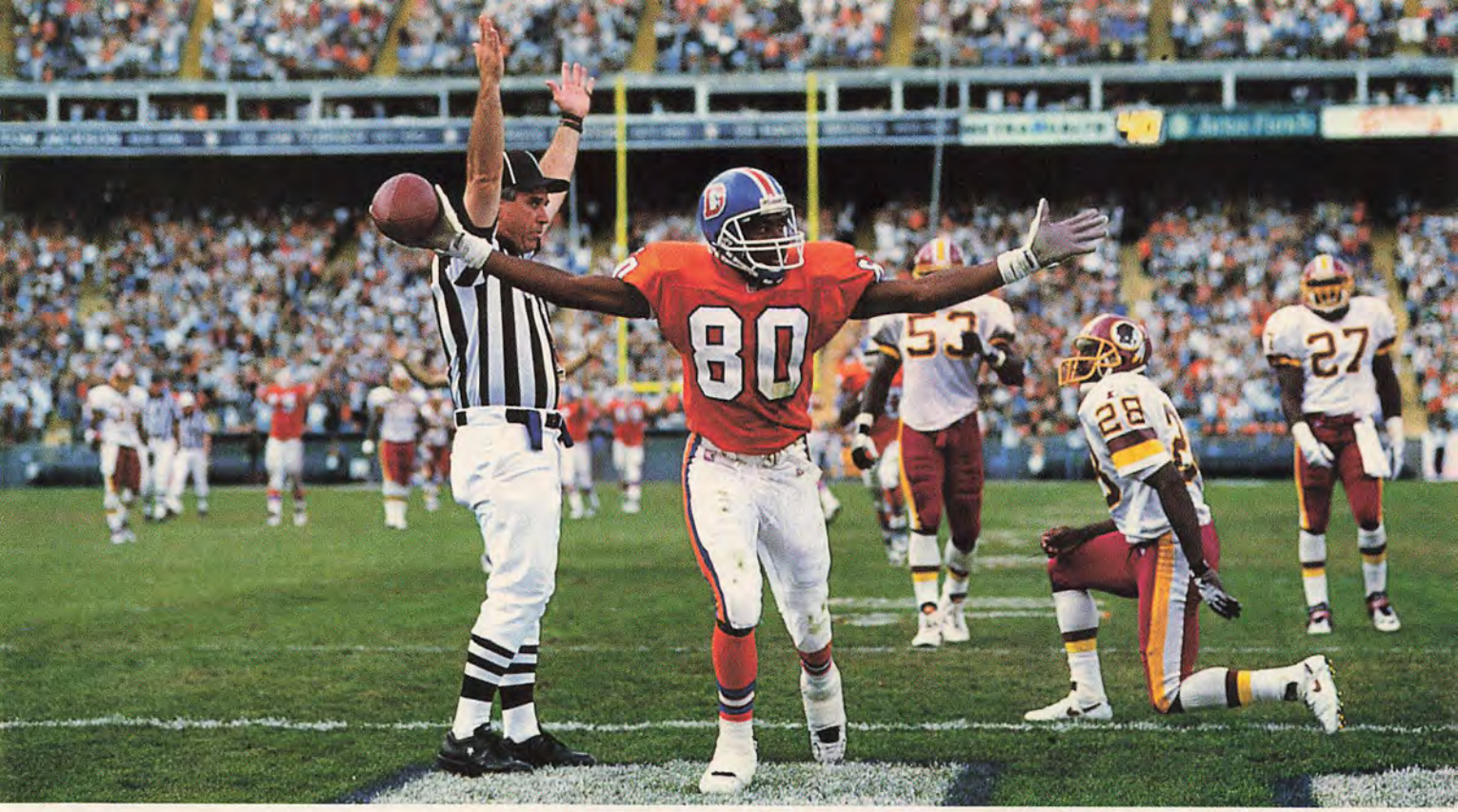
Except for the coverage on kicks, special teams is in good shape. Australian Darren Bennett, the wonder punter, went to the Pro Bowl. John Carney, not a distance kicker, still had another good year with a 21-for-26 performance. Coleman, who led the AFC in punt returns, scored twice on kickoff returns and once with a punt. He terrifies both the opposition and the Chargers, since he fumbled 10 times.

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
2	Bennett, Darren	P	6-5	235	32	None
61	Berti, Tony	T	6-5	287	25	Colorado
50	Binn, David	TE	6-3	240	25	California
51	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	240	32	Memphis
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	295	39	Colorado
58	Bush, Lewis	LB	6-2	245	27	Washington St.
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	170	33	Notre Dame
44	Castle, Eric	S	6-3	212	27	Oregon
31	Clark, Willie	CB	5-10	186	25	Notre Dame
68	Cocozzo, Joe	G	6-4	300	26	Michigan
83	Coleman, Andre	WR	5-9	165	26	Kansas State
90	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	267	27	Georgia Tech
22	Culver, Rodney	RB	5-9	224	27	Notre Dame
73	Davis, Isaac	G	6-3	325	25	Arkansas
93	Davis, Reuben	DT	6-5	320	32	North Carolina
84	Ellison, 'OMar	WR	6-1	200	25	Florida State
60	Engel, Greg	C	6-3	285	26	Illinois
41	Fletcher, Terrell	RB	5-8	196	23	Wisconsin
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	202	35	Ohio State
13	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	209	35	California
21	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	182	26	Stanford
52	Gordon, Dwayne	LB	6-1	240	27	New Hampshire
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	240	32	BYU
64	Grossman, Burt	DE	6-4	275	30	Pittsburgh
53	Hall, Courtney	C	6-2	281	28	Rice
28	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	174	31	S. C. State
37	Harrison, Rodney	S	6-0	201	24	Western Illinois
24	Hayden, Aaron	RB	6-0	218	24	Tennessee
38	Hendrix, David	S	6-1	213	25	Georgia Tech
12	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	223	32	NE Louisiana
99	Johnson, Raylee	DE	6-3	265	27	Arkansas
98	Lee, Shawn	DT	6-2	300	30	North Alabama
81	Martin, Tony	WR	6-1	181	31	Mesa State
88	May, Deems	TE	6-4	263	28	North Carolina
94	Mims, Chris	DE	6-5	295	26	Tennessee
89	Mitchell, Shannon	TE	6-2	245	25	Georgia
40	Montreuil, Mark	CB	6-2	200	25	Concordia
77	Moten, Eric	G	6-3	306	29	Michigan St.
85	Oliver, Jimmy	WR	5-10	173	23	TCU
70	Parker, Vaughn	T	6-3	296	26	UCLA
97	Parrella, John	DT	6-3	290	27	Nebraska
86	Pupunu, Alfred	TE	6-2	265	27	Weber State
86	Reeves, Walter	TE	6-4	270	31	Auburn
36	Ross, Kevin	S	5-9	185	35	Temple
12	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	217	34	USC
55	Seau, Junior	LB	6-3	255	28	USC
29	Shaw, Terrance	CB	5-11	190	23	Stephen F. Austin
65	Sienkiewicz, Troy	T	6-4	300	25	New Mexico St.
5	Whelihan, Craig	QB	6-5	204	26	Pacific
59	Young, Glen	LB	6-3	235	28	Syracuse

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Still, Bryan	WR	5-11	170	Virginia Tech
2	Sapp, Patrick	LB	6-0	258	Clemson
3	Roche, Brian	TE	6-4	249	San Jose State
4	Jones, Charlie	WR	5-8	170	Fresno State
5	Soli, Junior	DT	6-2	295	Arkansas
6	Mills, Jim	OL	6-4	270	Idaho
6	Stoltenberg, Bryan	C	6-1	290	Colorado
7	Bradley, Freddie	RB	5-10	215	Sonoma State



DAVE BLACK

Rod Smith beat the Redskins early in the season with a clutch catch. He'll play a bigger role this year for Denver.

Denver Broncos

The assignment for Mike Shanahan, the Broncos' coach, is fairly basic. Just one game separated the second-place team in the AFC West, San Diego, from the three teams below it, all of whom finished 8-8. If Shanahan hopes to avoid falling to the bottom of the division, he needs to do something about his defense.

Denver Gets Defensive

The Broncos scored 388 points, which trailed only Pittsburgh and Miami in the AFC. Yet they surrendered 27 points or more in eight games. Their record in those games was 1-7.

Shanahan tried hard to bring about improvement. He signed a couple of free agents: pass rusher Alfred Williams and middle linebacker Bill Romanowski. His first draft choice was the best small-college player on the board, linebacker John Mobley of Kutztown State, whom most NFL scouts saw as a potential super pass rusher. But it wasn't enough. The deal Shanahan wanted to make most, a trade for Arizona strongman Eric Swann, never came off because of the Cardinals' exorbitant price tag.

So Mobley will see a lot of playing time, maybe before he's ready, because Denver has no other choice. Fingers will be kept crossed that Williams, an underachiever in the pros, will be revitalized by his return to Colorado, where he starred as a collegian. He lives about 40 minutes from the Broncos' complex. Romanowski, who played for the 49ers when Shanahan coached there, brings leadership as well as experience.

Turning the Corner

There is another Bronco negative statistic that is even more startling. In a streak that is still alive, Denver cornerbacks have not intercepted a pass in 20 consecutive games. Despite the dubious streak, the coaches felt the two incumbent cornerbacks, veterans Lionel Washington and Ray Crockett, "played well enough." Nevertheless, Shanahan spent a second-round draft choice on corner Tory James of LSU, who intercepted two passes in 1995. The Broncos had just eight all season. Longtime star Steve Atwater remains the free safety with Tyrone Braxton his partner at strong safety.

Sack Time

The blame went on the lack of pass rush. Denver's most reliable sack man, Simon Fletcher, retired. Williams, who is expected to replace Fletcher, had 4 1/2 sacks for the 49ers. Shanahan has no choice but to give the Broncos' own disappointment, Dan Martin, another chance at end. Tackle Michael Dean Perry cost a lot when he came over from Cleveland last year and did not deliver, although he did lead the team with six sacks. James Jones, who came from the Browns with Perry, was more of a disappointment and will have to fight off rookie Mark Campbell, among others.

Romanowski is flanked by outside linebackers Allen Aldridge and Jet castoff Glenn Cadrez, although Mobley may have something to say about that.

John Elway

Where Denver makes hay is on offense. John Elway, age 36, remains the present and future Bronco quarterback, having signed a contract that takes him to the year 2000, if he chooses to stand tall in the pocket that long. Last year he didn't play like a middle-aged quarterback. He passed for the most yards in the AFC (3,970) and 26 touchdowns. No AFC team was close to the Broncos' average of 377 yards per game in total offense. Denver was the No. 3 offense in the NFL, behind Detroit and San Francisco.

Elway doesn't wander from the pocket as much as he used to, although he can be

DENVER BRONCOS

Mike Shanahan, Head Coach
Alex Gibbs, Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line
Gary Kubiak, Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Greg Robinson, Defensive Coordinator
J.D. Brookhart, Defensive Assistant
Frank Bush, Linebackers
Barney Chavous, Asst. Offensive Line/ Asst. Strength & Conditioning
Rick Dennison, Offensive Assistant
Ed Donatell, Defensive Assistant
George Dyer, Defensive Line
Mike Heimerdinger, Wide Receivers
Brian Pariani, Tight Ends
Rick Smith, Defensive Assistant
Greg Saporta, Adminstrative Asst./ Strength & Conditioning
Richard Smith, Special Teams
Bobby Turner, Running Backs
Rich Tuten, Strength & Conditioning

dangerous when he does decides to move. These days he doesn't have to run as much. After being sacked 85 times in the two previous seasons, he was dropped only 22 times a year ago. That's the same number of sacks Dan Marino, annually among the best protected quarterbacks, endured in Miami—and Elway attempted 60 more passes than Marino.

Quarterback coach Gary Kubiak was sent scouting last spring to uncover Elway's eventual successor. The Broncos think he was successful. They drafted Jeff Lewis of Northern Arizona, who had the same sort of numbers Elway had when he played at Stanford.

Hidden Gem

The Broncos had the surprise running back in the NFL in sixth-round draftee Terrell Davis, who gained 1,117 yards and tied Dallas's Emmitt Smith for the second-best per-rush average (4.7 yards) among the league's top 10 ground-gainers. Backup Aaron Craver averaged 4.6 yards on his 73 carries, which says something about the Denver offensive line and its coach, Alex Gibbs.

Pro Bowl left tackle Gary Zimmerman resigned, despite off-season shoulder surgery and a few thoughts about retirement. He didn't miss a play last year. Grit is the word, too, for right guard Mark Schlereth, who had a kidney stone removed on a Sunday, then played a Monday night game against the Raiders. (The Broncos won.) The coaches think center Tom Nalen is a future All-Pro. Brian Habib is the left guard and Broderick Thompson the right tackle. Jamie Brown is a promising young tackle.

Miller Time

It took a year, but Anthony Miller finally played like the All-Pro receiver the Broncos paid so dearly for in 1994. His catches actually dropped by one (to 59) and his yardage (1,079) was less than he had in his first season in Denver, but the scoreboard became brighter when his touchdown total jumped from five to 14. He is the man Elway looks for when the Broncos reach the red zone.

Ed McCaffrey is a possession receiver who played for Shanahan in San Francisco and had 39 catches in his first season as a Bronco. Rod Smith beat Washington early in the season with a clutch catch, then disappeared. He becomes more important this fall. Ex-Giant Mike Sherrard, the most sure-handed receiver in the league, was signed as a free agent. Shannon Sharpe is starting to show wear and tear, but the Pro Bowl tight end caught 63 passes for 756 yards.

Special Teams

Glyn Milburn sent his cleats and jersey to the Hall of Fame when he set an NFL record of more than 400 all-purpose yards in a game last season, but then Shanahan sent Milburn to Detroit for two draft choices. The new return man is Mike Pringle, who tore up the Canadian League the last two years.

Denver's kicking game is in good shape. Jason Elam was the best long-distance kicker in the AFC, converting five of seven field goals at 50 yards or more. His 56-yarder was the longest in the conference. Tom Rouen punted for a 42.2-yard average and a solid net of 37.6.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
57	Aldridge, Allen	LB	6-1	245	25	Houston
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	217	30	Arkansas
34	Braxton, Tyrone	S	5-11	185	32	North Dakota St.
70	Brown, Jamie	T	6-8	320	24	Florida A&M
55	Brown, Ken	LB	6-1	235	26	Virginia Tech
56	Burns, Keith	LB	6-1	233	25	Oklahoma State
59	Cadrez, Glenn	LB	6-3	245	27	Houston
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE	6-3	261	25	Liberty
86	Chamberlain, B.	WR	6-1	225	25	Wayne State
76	Childs, Jason	DT	6-4	292	28	North Dakota
43	Clark, Derrick	RB	6-1	235	26	Evangel
29	Craver, Aaron	RB	6-0	220	28	Fresno State
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-10	185	30	Baylor
30	Davis, Terrell	RB	5-11	200	24	Georgia
45	Downs, Gary	RB	6-0	212	26	N. C. State
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	192	27	Hawaii
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	36	Stanford
61	Floyd, Eric	G	6-5	310	31	Auburn
75	Habib, Brian	G	6-7	299	32	Washington
54	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	225	31	Texas
81	Hargain, Tony	WR	6-0	194	29	Oregon
96	Hasselbach, Harald	DE	6-6	280	29	Washington
37	Hauck, Tim	S	5-10	187	30	Montana
28	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-9	190	32	Oregon
21	Hilliard, Randy	CB	5-11	170	30	NW Louisiana
78	Jackson, Larry	DE	6-3	262	25	Texas A&M
50	Jacobs, Ray	LB	6-2	244	24	North Carolina
82	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	185	34	Arizona
95	Jones, Ernie	DE	6-2	270	26	Oregon
93	Jones, James	DT	6-2	290	28	Northern Iowa
31	Jones, Rondell	S	6-2	210	26	North Carolina
62	Kalaniuvalu, Alai	G	6-3	303	25	Oregon St.
97	Lodish, Mike	NT	6-3	280	29	UCLA
87	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	28	Stanford
68	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	290	37	West Texas St.
24	McMillan, Erik	S	6-2	200	32	Missouri
83	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	190	32	Tennessee
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	196	29	Oregon
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-3	280	26	Boston College
95	Perry, Michael D.	DT	6-1	290	31	Clemson
81	Pritchard, Mike	WR	5-11	186	27	Colorado
38	Rivers, Reggie	RB	6-1	206	29	SW Texas St.
94	Robinson, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	27	Idaho
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	241	31	Boston College
16	Rouen, Tom	P	6-3	215	29	Colorado
12	Rubley, T.J.	QB	6-3	212	28	Tulsa
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	278	31	Idaho
74	Schultz, William	T	6-5	305	30	USC
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	230	29	Savannah St.
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	33	UCLA
58	Shufelt, Pete	LB	6-2	241	27	Texas-El Paso
80	Smith, Rod	WR	6-0	183	27	Mo. Southern
64	Tamm, Ralph	G	6-4	280	31	West Chester
98	Tanuvasa, Maa	DT	6-2	277	26	Hawaii
76	Thompson, Broderick	T	6-5	295	36	Kansas
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	36	Tulane
91	Williams, Alfred	DE	6-6	265	28	Colorado
85	Wilner, Jeff	TE	6-4	245	25	Wesleyan
92	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	248	33	Stanford
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	294	35	Oregon

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Mobley, John	OL	6-1	230	Kutztown St.
2	James, Tory	CB	6-1	181	LSU
3	Smith, Detron	FB	5-10	230	Texas A&M
3	Campbell, Mark	DE	6-2	287	Florida
4	Lewis, Jeff	QB	6-2	207	N. Arizona
4	Johnson, Darrius	CB	5-9	173	Oklahoma
5	Jeffers, Patrick	WR	6-3	217	Virginia
6	Veland, Tony	S	5-10	205	Nebraska
7	Ratliffe, Leslie	OT	6-5	300	Tennessee
7	Banks, Chris	G	6-1	292	Kansas
7	Levine, L.T.	RB	6-0	222	Kansas
7	Gragert, Brian	P	6-0	227	Wyoming

John Elway

KEVIN REECE

1995 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Elam, 132 points on 39 extra points and 31 field goals 2nd

RUSHING—Davis, 1,117 yards on 237 carries, 4.7 avg., 7 TDs 3rd

PASSING—Elway, 316 of 542 attempts for 3,970 yards and 26 TDs 6th

RECEIVING—Sharpe, 63 receptions for 756 yards, 12.0 avg., 4 TDs 12th

INTERCEPTIONS—Atwater, 3 for 54 yards, 18.0 average T16th

PUNTING—Rouen, 52 punts, 42.2 avg., longest 61 yards 8th

PUNT RETURNS—Milburn, 31 for 354 yards, 11.4 average 3rd

KICKOFF RETURNS—Milburn, 47 for 1,269 yards, 27.0 average 2nd

SACKS—Perry, 6.0 sacks T25th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At San Francisco
	10	CAROLINA (N)
	17	At Dallas (N)
	23	JACKSONVILLE (N)

1996 SCHEDULE / 1995 SCORES

September	1	N.Y. JETS	
	8	At Seattle	10-27
	15	TAMPA BAY (N)	
	22	At Kansas City	17-20
	29	At Cincinnati	
October	6	SAN DIEGO	30-27
	13	Open Date	
	20	BALTIMORE	
	27	KANSAS CITY	7-21
November	4	At Oakland (N)	31-28
	10	CHICAGO	
	17	At New England	37-3
	24	At Minnesota	
December	1	SEATTLE	27-31
	8	At Green Bay	
	15	OAKLAND	27-0
	22	At San Diego (N)	6-17

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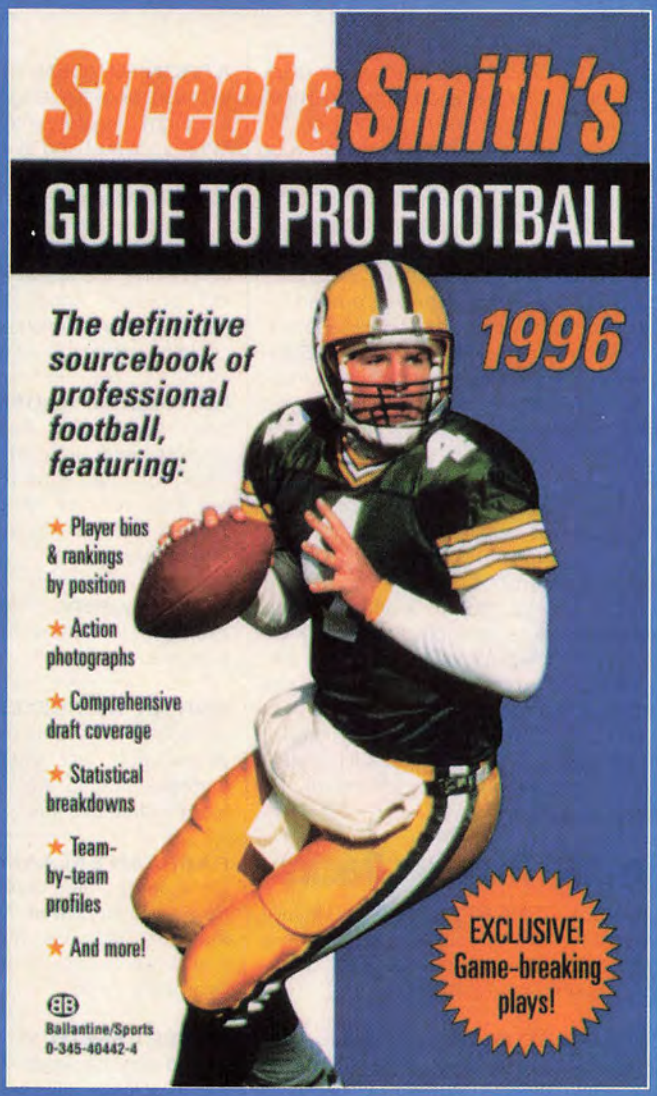

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Fantasy Football

by DENNIS LEPORE LAKE COUNTY (OHIO) NEWS-HERALD

The beauty of fantasy football lies in its simplicity: You draft your team and root for it to score. The fun lies in watching your team perform on TV every week while keeping score of your opponents' progress.

Most leagues are made up of 10-16 teams stocked with two quarterbacks, 3-4 running backs, 4-6 receivers, a kicker, and either a defense or individual defensive players. Teams are matched in a head-to-head schedule during the regular season, followed by a fantasy playoff system. Starting lineups are called in weekly, with trading and free-agent pickups also allowed during the season.

Basic leagues count six points for just touchdowns while performance leagues award one point for every 10 rushing and receiving yards and for every 20 passing yards. Additional points for rushing attempts, receptions, and long scoring plays are optional. Super-advanced leagues use extra categories such as interceptions, fumbles, sacks, tackles, and special-teams scores. Draft preparations vary according to the league's scoring rules.

No matter how you play, fantasy football can be a rewarding hobby that will increase your knowledge and appreciation of the players and the sport.

Sleeper Running Backs

DONNELL BENNETT, Chiefs If he is fully recovered from knee surgery, he will be a force in the backfield—both on short-yardage and passing situations

JEROME BETTIS, Steelers Bettis is looking to rebound after two off-years with the Rams. He still has the ability but needs to report in top physical condition and be motivated.

TERRELL DAVIS, Broncos An above-average all-round talent held back due to a nagging hamstring problem in college, Davis came on in training camp, won the starting job, and had a productive '95 season. Expect further improvement this year

TERRELL FLETCHER, Chargers Fletcher has decent speed and hands and is being groomed as Ronnie Harmon's replacement—a third-down specialist.

AARON HAYDEN, Chargers A hard driver with above-average skills (except for blocking), Hayden emerged when Natrone Means got hurt and averaged 90 yards per game down the stretch. He is the main man now that Means is gone.

GARRISON HEARST, Cardinals He has been hitting the weights and is reportedly in top physical condition now, two years removed from serious knee surgery. He could be traded, however, for needed depth.

NAPOLEON KAUFMAN, Raiders A hard worker who has the potential to develop into an electrifying all-purpose back, Kaufman is an excellent return man but must work on his receiving skills. He is small but has speed and is incredibly strong for his size.

TERRY KIRBY, Dolphins Miami is expected to feature this talented all-purpose back.

ADRIAN MURRELL, Jets This flashy speedster emerged as the Jets' all-purpose back last year. His output will increase due to the improvement of the team's offensive line.

RASHAAN SALAAM, Bears Strong with great speed, he's quick to the hole, picks up his blockers well, and is tough around the goal line. He made vast improvements as a rookie, which should carry over to this year.

ROBERT SMITH, Vikings Smith has seen limited duty because of nagging knee and hip problems. He had knee surgery in 1993, so he must improve his durability as well as his work ethic. He has good outside speed but could be traded.

JAMES STEWART, Jaguars Stewart is not flashy but gets the job done, especially in short-yardage situations. He's a tough back who knows how to pick up his blockers and also doubles as a fine receiver. He lacks breakaway speed, needs work on his blocking, and will battle Natrone Means for playing time.

RAY ZELLARS, Saints The fullback not only has above-average blocking abilities but has proven very agile for his size. He's strong with good moves and can power it in at the goal line.

Sleeper Wide Receivers

FRED BARNETT, Dolphins The talented Barnett will explode this year, finally teaming with a top quarterback in Dan Marino.

VINCENT BRISBY, Patriots The arrival of the speedy Shawn Jefferson will stretch the defenses enough for Brisby and Ben Coates to run proper routes. Look for Brisby to have his coming-out season.

'OMAR ELLISON, Chargers With Mark Seay and Shawn Jefferson gone, somebody will have to take their place. Ellison has big-play potential but must learn to separate himself better from coverage. That should come with experience.

BERT EMANUEL, Falcons Scouts love the former Rice QB's potential. Now in his third season, he is becoming more polished and an integral part of Atlanta's Red Gun attack.

JOEY GALLOWAY, Seahawks A little small, he has explosive speed and unusually sure hands. Expect further development.

THOMAS LEWIS, Giants Lewis has game-breaking speed and will emerge with Mike Sherrard gone.

KEENAN McCARDELL, Jaguars The ex-Brown will be one of Jacksonville's main targets.

O.J. McDUFFIE, Dolphins An exciting player with speed who will continue to improve.

JIMMY OLIVER, Chargers Has great speed and could step in as the third-down receiver the Chargers desperately need.

CHRIS SANDERS, Oilers He played in the shadow of Joey Galloway at Ohio State but really came on his senior year and con-

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tinued his progress last season, displaying speed and clutch receiving ability.

DEION SANDERS, Cowboys Will be used more frequently at wide receiver this year.

FRANK SANDERS, Cardinals Strong and confident, he is a possession receiver capable of making the big play.

TORRANCE SMALL, Saints The Saints are looking to utilize his abundant talents more often this year as a replacement for the departed Quinn Early. He has size, sure hands, quick feet, and a willingness to perform in heavy traffic.

J.J. STOKES, 49ers Scouts love his hands and leaping ability. Not blessed with burner speed, Stokes is extremely athletic and can hold his own with defensive backs. He will get substantially more playing time this year with the release of John Taylor.

TAMARICK VANOVER, Chiefs He started to emerge in the second half after suffering shoulder woes early on. Vanover is a tough, athletic type with good hands. His only drawback is the lack of burner speed, but that should not prevent him from making a contribution this year in a starting role.

MICHAEL WESTBROOK, Redskins Big, fast, tough, and athletic. Scouts believe he will eventually develop into one of the premier wideouts in the NFL. They love his leaping ability but agree that an improvement in running his routes is a priority.

JEFF HOSTETLER

JOHN WILLIAMSON

Sleeper Tight Ends

KYLE BRADY, Jets Though he is not a downfield threat, Brady can outmuscle defenders with his strength. He is also a good blocker and will establish himself with the departure of Johnny Mitchell.

MARK BRUENER, Steelers A blue-collar type and prototypical Steeler with above-average skills across the board. He excels with dedicated all-out play on every snap.

KEN DILGER, Colts A nice combination of size and agility, Dilger can also catch the ball but must improve his blocking.

CHRISTIAN FAURIA, Seahawks An impressive all-round player, Fauria can block, catch the ball in traffic, and stretch the defense. He will improve as the season progresses.

DAVID SLOAN, Lions A fine blocker with sure hands, Sloan will be a more visible target this year. He is not a major threat downfield but can stretch the defense.

IRV SMITH, Saints With Wesley Walls gone, Smith will finally establish himself in New Orleans as one of the more productive tight ends in the NFL.

WESLEY WALLS, Panthers Walls leaves a platoon situation in New Orleans for a feature role with Carolina.

Comeback Candidates

FLIPPER ANDERSON, Indianapolis A dangerous downfield threat when healthy, Anderson missed the last 14 games after knee surgery in September. Monitor his progress in training camp.

J.J. BIRDEN, Falcons Nagging hamstring and hip injuries ruined his first season with Atlanta. Look for a rebound year in the Falcons' high-powered air attack.

DREW BLEDSOE, Patriots Primed for a rebound, he needs a QB coach to smooth out his mechanics after his shoulder injury last year. Bledsoe could also use speedier receivers and better protection in the pocket, but he does have special abilities.

KI-JANA CARTER, Bengals Carter, the first overall pick in the '95 draft, will be back and Harold Green will be gone, but don't expect a breakout the first year. Carter's recovery from major knee surgery will be a long process, so tuck him away on a reserve roster and be patient.

WILLIAM FLOYD, 49ers When healthy, Floyd is a bruiser who can bust the line, throw a block, and catch a pass equally well. He is a confident young man who wants the ball. Monitor his recovery from knee surgery.

BARRY FOSTER, FA Foster was cut by Carolina in training camp last year after a dispute over his sprained knee. He says he feels good after sitting out the entire season and is ready to contribute again.

RAYMONT HARRIS, Bears Harris will attempt a comeback after breaking his collarbone in week 1 last year. Chicago will throw to its running backs more this season, and that is where he will help.

JEFF HOSTETLER, Raiders Hostetler's year was ruined by neck, hand, and shoulder problems, with surgery on his left shoulder finally ending his season in December. He will be undervalued in most drafts.

JOHNNY JOHNSON, 49ers Johnson, who sat out all of last season when teams refused to meet his contract demands, is a decent runner and excellent receiver out of the backfield. He provides a slight upgrade for the Niners but has been injury-prone.

NATRONE MEANS, Jaguars Means is looking for a fresh start with the young Jags, but he must prove worthy by upgrading his work ethic and conditioning habits. He missed the second half last season with a groin injury. This is a make-or-break year for him.

MIKE PRITCHARD, Broncos He went down with a kidney injury after only three games in '94 and then struggled with injuries last season. Many fantasy leaguers will forget about Pritchard, but he is healthy once again and should be a red-zone threat in the Denver attack. He is not a burner but is underrated, tough, and reliable.

ANDRE REED, Bills The veteran pulled a hamstring at midseason and missed all but two games the rest of the way.

STERLING SHARPE, Free Agent One of the top receivers in NFL history, Sharpe will sign with a team if he gets medical clearance after neck surgery.

KEVIN TURNER, Eagles One of the better pass-receiving fullbacks, Turner is attempting to rebound from a knee injury that ended his '95 season after the first game.

ALEXANDER WRIGHT, Rams He had surgery for a bulging disk last October but returned late in the year and had some big games. A burner who will complement Isaac Bruce. ❑

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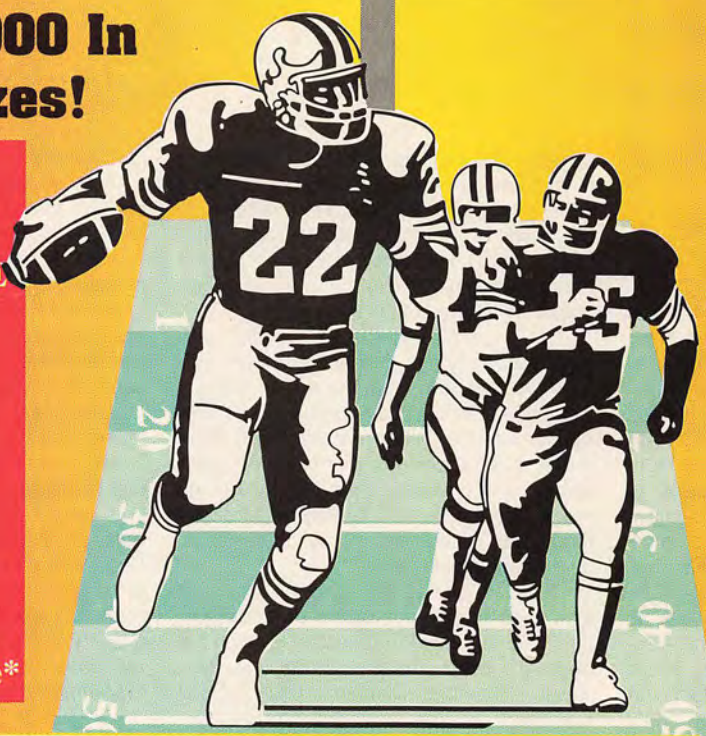

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6 pts .....T.D. Pass
2 pts .....Conversion
2 pts .....Conversion Pass
1 pt .....Extra Point
3 pts .....Field Goal
2 pts .....100-199 yards
4 pts .....200-299 yards
6 pts .....300+ yards

DEFENSE SCORING

10 pts .....SHUTOUT
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5 pts .....8-14 pts allowed
3 pts ...15-21 pts allowed
1 pt .....22-28 pts allowed

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PICK 2 RB'S		PICK 2 QB'S		PICK 2 RCVR'S		PICK 2 DEF.	
E. Smith	DAL	Aikman	DAL	C. Carter	MIN	Cardinals	Falcons
M. Faulk	IND	Young	SAF	T. Brown	OAK	Panthers	Bills
Sanders	DET	Favre	GB	A. Rison	CLE	Bengals	Bears
Watters	PHI	Harbaugh	IND	H. Ellard	WAS	Cowboys	Browns
N. Means	SAD	Hostetler	OAK	M. Irvin	DAL	Broncos	Lions
Bettis	STL	Bledsoe	NE	Alexander	CLE	Packers	Oilers
T. Allen	WAS	McNair	HOU	C. Pickens	CIN	Jaguars	Colts
Warren	SEA	George	ATL	R. Brooks	GB	Dolphins	Chiefs
K. Byers	MIA	Krammer	CHI	R. Ishmial	OAK	Vikings	Patiots
M. Allen	KC	Blake	CIN	B. Brooks	BUF	Saints	Giants
Bennett	GB	Marino	MIA	A. Reid	BUF	Eagles	Jets
Harmon	SAD	Kelly	BUF	J. Rice	SAF	Steelers	Raiders
Williams	OAK	Elway	DEN	J. Taylor	SAF	Chargers	Rams
Parmalee	MIA	Humphries	SAD	S. Sharpe	DEN	Seahawks	49ers
Salaam	CHI	O'Donnel	NYJ	H. Moore	DET	Bucs	Redskins

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Canadian Football League

PREDICTIONS

EASTERN DIVISION	WESTERN DIVISION
1. Toronto Argonauts	1. Calgary Stampeders
2. Hamilton Tiger-Cats	2. British Columbia Lions
3. Montreal Alouettes	3. Edmonton Eskimos
4. Ottawa Rough Riders	4. Saskatchewan Roughriders
	5. Winnipeg Blue Bombers

by Rick Matsumoto
TORONTO STAR

Novelist Thomas Wolfe insisted that you can't go home again. But that's exactly what the Canadian Football League has done. After three chaotic seasons in the United States, the problem-plagued CFL has abandoned its expansion plans and high-tailed it back across the 49th parallel to once again become an all-Canadian entity.

In the process, it has taken the most successful of the U.S. expansion franchises, the Grey Cup champion Baltimore Stallions, and restabled them in Montreal, to bring about yet another rebirth of the Alouettes. Canada's second-largest city hasn't had a team since the Alouettes folded (for the second time) on the eve of the 1987 season. The Als had previously given way to the Concordes in 1982 before experiencing a short revival in 1986. What remains to be seen is whether the Stallions, who began their short stint in Baltimore as the horse with no name, can bring about a successful third flight of the Alouettes.

CFL commissioner Larry Smith, who was a journeyman fullback/slotback with the Alouettes, and team owner Jim Speros, who once tried out unsuccessfully as a linebacker with the club, are excited about the return of a franchise to Montreal. Yet there are many who wonder if the CFL will be any more successful in returning to Montreal than it was in its attempt to sell three-down, 12-man football in the U.S.

The CFL pulled the plug on its failed expansion south of the border on a wickedly cold February day in Edmonton. By then the Southern Division, made up of five U.S. cities, was in a shambles. During the three years of the American experiment, only the Baltimore franchise was able to attract fans in any substantial numbers as it averaged more than 30,000 in both years of its existence.

The Gold Miners, the first American-based franchise, joined the league in 1993. But they managed less than 17,000 fans per game in each of their two years in Sacramento, and owner Fred Anderson moved the club to San Antonio last season. He didn't fare lot better there, either.

The Shreveport Pirates and the Las Vegas Posse joined the league, along with Baltimore, in 1994. The Posse, however, were about as successful as a novice at a blackjack table on the neon strip. They barely survived to the end of the season as attendance dwindled to an embarrassing handful of spectators.

Determined to make a go of expansion, the CFL added the Memphis Mad Dogs and the Birmingham Barracudas in time for the 1995 season. With Federal Express founder Fred Smith bankrolling the Mad Dogs and retired real estate baron Art Williams footing the bills in Birmingham, the league felt it finally had the deep-pocketed owners it needed to succeed.

The CFL found out all too soon that deep pockets alone cannot sustain a franchise or entice fans to the ballpark. There was initial interest in both cities, but attendances plunged to between 4,200 and 8,000 by the second half of the season.

The Mad Dogs' gregarious president and head coach, Pepper Rodgers, said the main reason for the league's failure in the U.S. was the lack of television exposure.

"The people down here have never even seen three-down football," he said. "Never mind our games. We never get to see Toronto play Edmonton or Saskatchewan play B.C. If they had been able to see some CFL games on television over the years, it would have helped. If [the NFL] didn't televise games in Memphis, the fans wouldn't know squat about the Dallas Cowboys."

Because of the uncertainty over which teams would be in the CFL for 1995, the schedule wasn't completed until almost the eve of the season. That hindered marketing and ticket sales and also resulted in some detrimental scheduling. Not only did the Mad Dogs find themselves going head-to-head with televised NFL games on a Sunday afternoon, but the CFL's failure to schedule the Calgary Stampeders and the league's most recognizable player, Doug Flutie, for a game in Memphis didn't help matters.

Despite all its mistakes, the CFL might have continued with its plunge into the U.S. market had it not been blindsided by the unexpected move of the NFL's Cleveland Browns to Baltimore. Speros, at first, sought ways to co-exist in Baltimore, where he would have had to share Memorial Stadium with the invaders from Ohio. But his attempts to get 20,000 committed season-ticket holders fell far short of that mark.

He also investigated the possibility of moving the Stallions to Houston, where the Oilers are set to move out of the Astrodome and into Nashville, and he looked into Richmond and the Lehigh Valley in eastern Pennsylvania. When none of those alternatives proved fruitful, Speros opted to take his team to Montreal.

While Speros was being forced to find a new stable for his Stallions, the Barracudas and the Mad Dogs were calling it quits after just one season. In Shreveport, owners Bernie and Lonie Glieberman, who moved there after leaving Ottawa, sought to take the Pirates to Norfolk (VA), but they were given the cold shoulder by the city council and Old Dominion University, where they had hoped to play. Eventually the Gliebermans gave up and put their franchise in mothballs.

That left only Anderson. And he finally called it quits at the CFL meetings in Edmonton. "When [the Stallions] made the move to leave Baltimore and Shreveport's application didn't go through in Norfolk, I knew we were

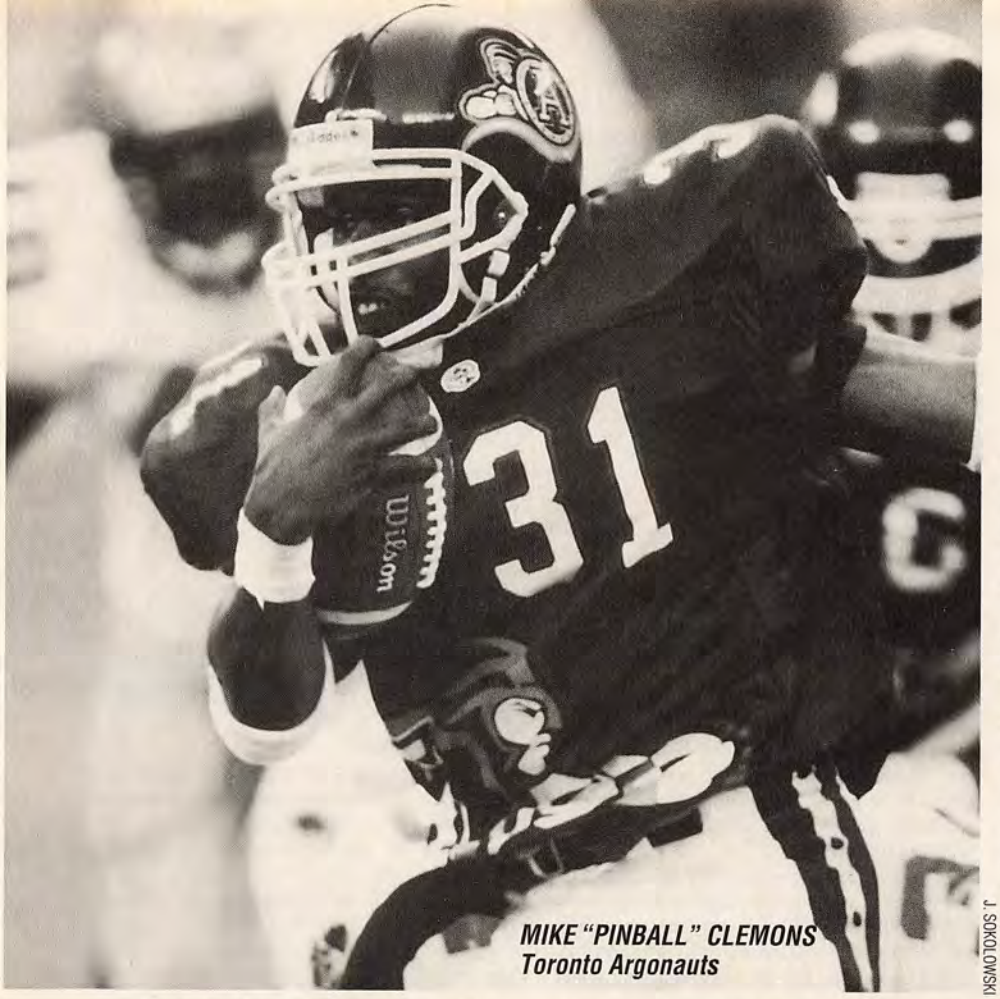
1995 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

	w	l	t	pts	off	def
North Division						
Calgary	15	3	0	30	631	404
Edmonton	13	5	0	26	599	359
British Columbia	10	8	0	20	535	470
Hamilton	8	10	0	16	427	509
Winnipeg	7	11	0	14	404	653
Saskatchewan	6	12	0	12	422	451
Toronto	4	14	0	8	376	519
Ottawa	3	15	0	6	348	685
South Division						
Baltimore	15	3	0	30	541	369
San Antonio	12	6	0	24	630	457
Birmingham	10	8	0	20	548	518
Memphis	9	9	0	18	346	364
Shreveport	5	13	0	10	465	514

DIVISION SEMIFINALS
Baltimore 36 • Winnipeg 21
Calgary 30 • Hamilton 13
San Antonio 52 • Birmingham 9
Edmonton 26 • British Columbia 15

DIVISION FINALS
Baltimore 21 • San Antonio 11
Calgary 37 • Edmonton 4

GREY CUP
Baltimore 37 • Calgary 20



MIKE "PINBALL" CLEMONS
Toronto Argonauts

J. SOKOLOWSKI

done," said Anderson, who estimated that he lost $14 million in three years, including $5 million last year in San Antonio.

The Canadian teams were not without their problems. But then, the CFL without woes wouldn't be the CFL. In Calgary, owner Larry Ryckman was forced to dispose of the Stampeders after the Alberta Securities Commission found him guilty of illegal stock manipulation and ordered him to resign any position as a director or officer of a public or private company for 18 years. He was also fined $500,000, an amount that was later reduced to $250,000.

Ryckman's company was eventually forced into bankruptcy and the CFL assigned quarterback Doug Flutie's contract to the Argonauts, with whom he ultimately signed a new two-year deal that could pay him in excess of $1 million a year if he collects all his bonuses. The bankruptcy meant that Flutie, who is owed $685,000 on the $1.1 million 1995 portion of his personal services contract with Ryckman, became just another creditor who will have to wait in line to recover his money.

B.C. Lions owner Bill Comrie also called it quits after losing close to $8 million in 3 1/2 years and sold the club to a group of Vancouver businessmen, including Nelson Skalbania. CFL fans will remember Skalbania for his wild-spending ways as the owner of the Montreal Concordes.

In Ottawa, reclusive owner Horn Chen, a Chicago restaurateur and owner of several minor league hockey franchises, surfaced long enough to fire general manager Garney Henley and replace him with 68-year-old former Argo GM and coach Leo Cahill, who had been away from the game for eight years.

Cahill's return, along with that of Skalbania and the Alouettes, proves that in the CFL you can, indeed, go home again.

EASTERN DIVISION

Toronto Argonauts

Don Matthews is in the same position heading into this season with the Argos as he was a year ago as the head coach of the Baltimore Stallions. His club is the clear preseason favorite to win the Grey Cup. With just 20 victories against 52 losses in the four seasons since their 1991 Grey Cup triumph, the Argos have dropped out of sight on the Toronto sports scene behind the Maple Leafs, Blue Jays, and Raptors. In an effort to regain at least part of that lucrative pie, the Argos went all out in the offseason to sweeten their soured image.

They wooed Matthews away from the Stallions/Alouettes to replace Bob O'Billovich as both GM and head coach. Matthews immediately hired an experienced coaching staff, including offensive coordinator Adam Rita, who as head coach took the Argos to the '91 league title.

Through the dispersal draft and key free-agent signings, Matthews has rebuilt a shaky defense. After coming to terms with free agent defensive end Tim Cofield (Elizabeth City State), who led the league with 24 sacks, the Argos made sure he felt at home by grabbing 10 of his Memphis Mad Dog teammates in the dispersal draft. Among them were defensive end Alex Gordon (Cincinnati), linebacker/defensive back Bobby Dawson (Illinois), and defensive backs Donald Smith (Liberty) and Ed Berry (Utah State).

The main piece of the rebuilding puzzle fell into place in mid-March when the Argos came to terms with quarterback Doug Flutie (Boston College). The former Heisman Trophy winner's contract was assigned to Toronto after Calgary Stampeder owner Larry Ryckman's financial corporation, which operated the club, was forced into bankruptcy.

Flutie, who won an unprecedented four consecutive Most Outstanding Player awards (1991-94), the last three with Calgary, is the quarterback the Argos have not had since they allowed Matt Dunigan to escape after the '91 season. He's also the name player, the subject of sports talk shows and newspaper columns, that the franchise has lacked since Raghib (Rocket) Ismail left for the NFL Raiders in 1993 after two controversial but exciting seasons. The Argos have seen their average attendance drop from 36,000 a game to just over 17,000 since Ismail's first season in Toronto.

"Today we put the sizzle in the Argos," drooled Matthews in announcing Flutie's signing. "Imagine him and Mike Clemons in the same backfield. It doesn't take much of an imagination to see that our offense is going to be spectacular."

The diminutive Clemons (William & Mary) has been the one constant since his arrival in 1989. He again led the team in rushing and the league in all-purpose yardage. Clemons and wide receivers Paul Masotti (Acadia) and Jimmy Cunningham (Howard) provide the Argos with formidable offensive weapons.

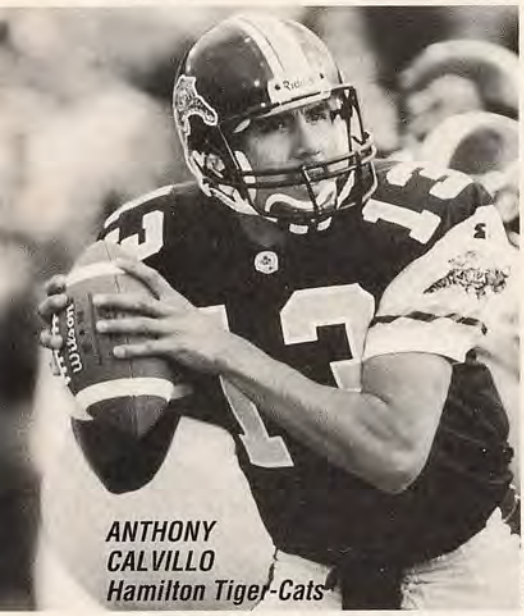
Hamilton Tiger-Cats

The city of Hamilton will play host to the Grey Cup game for the first time since 1972, and the Tiger-Cats are hoping history

repeats itself. The Ticats not only played in that game 24 years ago in front of their hometown fans, but they came away with the silverware as well.

The Ticats' success in 1972 was spun by a first-year quarterback from the University of Toledo named Chuck Ealey, who went on to win Rookie of the Year honors. This season, Hamilton will have a well-seasoned quarterback leading the way. After weeks of negotiations, the Ticats finally landed Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech) just three weeks before the start of training camp. The had to outbid the B.C. Lions to acquire the 14-year veteran, who spent last season with the Birmingham Barracudas and was declared a free agent when that expansion team folded. Third-year quarterback Anthony Calvillo (Utah State), who shared the job last season with Steve Taylor (traded to Ottawa during the winter), will be Dunigan's backup.

"Matt's the final piece we needed for the puzzle," said head coach Don Sutherin. "Two years ago, this franchise was half dead. Now we're ready to challenge for the Grey Cup."



ANTHONY CALVILLO Hamilton Tiger-Cats

J. SOKOLOWSKI

Dunigan will be pitching to familiar faces. In hopes of enticing Dunigan to Hamilton, the Ticats had sweetened the bait by selecting four receivers from the Barracuda roster—Jason Phillips (Houston), who had 76 catches and 1,101 yards; Marcus Grant (Houston), 84-1,559 yards; Ted Long (Oklahoma), 65-620; and Mac Cody (Memphis)—in the dispersal draft. They plus the ageless Earl Winfield, who had 92 catches for 1,496 yards and a league leading 13 touchdown receptions, form a formidable receiving corps.

With every intention of improving the Cats' running game, Sutherin dealt for Stampeder tailback Tony Stewart (Iowa), sending Kalin Hall (BYU) to Calgary and signing rookies Sean Patton (Youngstown State) and Joe Frazier (Auburn).

The Ticats suffered a major blow on defense when all-star middle linebacker Mike O'Shea (Guelph) signed with the Detroit Lions and cornerback Eric Carter (Knoxville) jumped to the San Francisco 49ers. Picking up linebackers Jimmy Reed from Birmingham, Joe Montford from Shreveport, and Danton Barto from Memphis in the dispersal draft should ease the loss of O'Shea, although Sutherin will have to employ a Canadian at another position. Anthony Shelton (Tennessee State) and Kim Phillips (North Texas) will vie for Carter's spot on the corner.

Montreal Alouettes

Technically, they're the defending Grey Cup champions. But the Alouettes may no more resemble the Baltimore Stallions, who last year became the first non-Canadian team to win the Grey Cup, than a horse would be mistaken for a meadowlark (alouette, in French).

The Stallions were stampeded out of Baltimore three months after winning Earl Grey's mug when Cleveland Browns owner Art Modell announced he was moving his NFL franchise to the shores of Chesapeake Bay. Stallions owner Jim Speros contemplated moving to Houston before finally opting for Montreal, which had been without a CFL franchise since 1986. And Speros wasted no time in changing the team's nickname to Alouettes.

The changes in venue and nickname, however, aren't the only alterations to the roster of the team which beat the Calgary Stampeders in last November's Grey Cup. Head coach and director of football operations Don Matthews, who was the architect of the Stallions' success, changed horses in the offseason as he joined the Toronto Argonauts in the same dual capacity. Assistants Daryl Edralin and Charlie Carpenter accompanied Matthews to Toronto. That left the head-coaching job for Bob Price, who was Matthews' defensive coordinator, while assistant director of football operations Jim Popp was promoted to GM.

Popp and Price were left with the task of filling the gaping holes left by the departure of several of their top players to the NFL. The biggest loss for both the Als and the CFL was running back Mike Pringle (Cal Fullerton), the league's Most Outstanding Player last season, who signed with the Denver Broncos. Also jumping to the NFL were defensive back Charles Anthony (San Francisco 49ers), offensive tackle Shahriar Pourdanesh (Washington Redskins), and place-kicker Carlos Huerta (Chicago Bears). Linebackers Matt Goodwin and O.J. Brigance were also seeking NFL opportunities.

The Alouettes did manage to hang on to quarterback Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern), who found new life with the Stallions after floundering in Toronto in 1993 following six productive seasons in Edmonton. Joining him in the backfield will be Mike Saunders (Iowa), who gained 1,030 yards last year with the San Antonio Texans.

Also picked up in the dispersal draft were linebacker Greg Battle (Arizona State), a two-time winner of the CFL's outstanding defensive player award with Winnipeg who spent last season with Memphis; wide receiver Joe Kralik (Washington) and defensive back Hurlie Brown (Miami), both from San Antonio; and place-kicker Luis Zendejas from Birmingham.

Ottawa Rough Riders

The Riders pulled the surprise of the dispersal draft when they used the No. 1 overall pick to select San Antonio quarterback David Archer. While Archer may have clearly been the prize of the auction, it was felt that his $518,000 contract would be too rich for the penny-pinching Riders.

Later it was learned that general manager Garney Henley had been ordered less than 24 hours before the draft by owner Horn Chen, through his legal counsel Garth Roberts, to take Archer. Chen had apparently come to the conclusion that the presence of Archer, the league's top-ranked pivot, would be just the catalyst needed to boost sagging season-ticket sales.

After several weeks of negotiations, the Riders and Archer finally came to an agreement. By that time, however, Henley had been fired and eventually replaced by legendary Argo coach and GM Leo Cahill, who had been out of the mix for several years.

Just days after drafting Archer, the Riders further dismayed their fans by announcing that all-star defensive end John Kropke (Illinois State) had been sent to Winnipeg as the future considerations in a 1995 deal that brought offensive guard David Black and linebacker Charlie Clemons to Ottawa. Not only was the seven-year veteran one of the Riders' few legitimate stars, but he was a crowd favorite and a highly visible individual in the community with his off-field work. Several weeks earlier, the Riders had sent their top defensive back, veteran Brett Young (Oregon), to Hamilton for quarterback Steve Taylor (Nebraska), who appears destined to be Archer's backup.

The wrath of the fans, several of whom cancelled their season tickets after the popular Kropke's departure, cost Henley his job a few days later.

Before his departure, Henley at least made sure Archer would have some solid receivers. He had grabbed Birmingham's Eddie Britton (Central State) and Billy Hess

(West Chester) from San Antonio in the dispersal draft. He then dealt aging veteran Ray Alexander (Florida A&M) to the B.C. Lions for Robert Gordon (Nebraska-Omaha), who began his CFL career with Ottawa in 1991. They'll team with last year's leading Rider receiver, Odessa Turner (Northwestern Louisiana), the former NFLer, who caught 70 passes for 1,054 yards.

Mike Richardson (Louisiana Tech), the CFL's leading rusher in 1992 and '93 and the Rookie of the Year in '92, gained 555 yards last year and provides the Riders with a solid running game.

WESTERN DIVISION

Calgary Stampeders

The Larry Ryckman-Doug Flutie era is over. The wild, magical ride through wonderland came to an abrupt halt in the offseason when Ryckman Financial, which operated the team, was forced into bankruptcy and the club, which he bought prior to the 1992 season, was sold off to local businessman Sig Gutsche.

But even before he was found guilty of illegal stock manipulations by the Alberta Securities Commission, there were strong indications that Ryckman could no longer afford Flutie's $1.1 million (Canadian) annual salary and that the league's marquee player would be peddled elsewhere. That eventually came to fruition when Flutie's contract was assigned to the Argonauts after a deal was worked out between the player and the Toronto club.

The task of rebuilding the team's reputation in the Calgary business community, where many creditors were left holding the proverbial bag when Ryckman went bankrupt, goes to the new owners.

On the field, however, the job of keeping the Stampeders on the winning track now falls, to a large extent, on third-year quarterback Jeff Garcia (San Jose State). Mind you, the 26-year-old pivot with the flaming red hair and Huckleberry Finn looks, showed last season that he didn't find Flutie's shoes too large to fill at all. When Flutie went down in midseason with an elbow injury which forced him to undergo surgery, Garcia led the Stampeders to an 8-1 record. Flutie came back for the playoffs, but when he was unable to generate his usual offensive magic in the Grey Cup game against the Baltimore Stallions, many felt coach Wally Buono should have switched to Garcia in the second half.

The loss to the Stallions marked the third time in Flutie's four seasons in Calgary that the Stamps failed to grab the championship ring despite having the league's best record during the regular season. The expectations may not be as high with Garcia at the helm. But that's not to say the Stamps won't be one of the favorites to represent the West in this year's championship game in Hamilton. Garcia will be surrounded by much of the same talent that lost just three of 18 games last season.

Leading the way is Canadian slotback Dave Sapunjis (Western Ontario), who topped the league in receiving yardage for the second time in three seasons with 111 catches for 1,666 yards and 12 TDs. Then there's Allen Pitts (Cal Fullerton), who had 100 receptions for 1,492 yards; and Terry Vaughn (Arizona), who had 72 catches for 1,031 yards in his rookie season. Also added via the disperal draft were receivers Schredrick Austin (Clark-Atlanta) from Birmingham and David Lucas (Florida A&M) of San Antonio.

Defensively, the Stamps picked up 12-year veteran tackle Rodney Harding (Oklahoma State) from Memphis to go along with all-star ends Will Johnson (Northeast Louisiana) and Marvin Pope (Ohio Central) and linebacker Anthony McClanahan (Washington State), an impressive midseason addition last fall.

J. SOKOLOWSKI

DAVE SAPUNJIS
Calgary Stampeders

British Columbia Lions

Just two years ago, the Lions were the surprise Grey Cup champions. After failing to defend that title last fall, they are starting all over again this summer with new ownership, a new GM, and a new head coach.

Losing some $8 million in 3 1/2 years, long-distance owner Bill Comrie decided he'd had enough and returned to selling furniture from his Edmonton headquarters. He sold the franchise in March to a group of 10 Vancouver-area businessmen, including Nelson Skalbania, the one-time owner of the short-lived Montreal Concordes. The price: $100,000 down and a $2.6 million balance.

General manager Eric Tillman apparently saw the writing on the wall last fall. He resigned to return to the U.S. as director of football operations for the NFL-financed WLAF. In February, shortly before unloading the club, Comrie fired head coach Dave Ritchie and replaced him with former Lions quarterback Joe Paopao, who had spent the past two seasons as the offensive coordinator of the Edmonton Eskimos.

The popular Paopao, however, has his work cut out for himself this season. The Lions lost out in their attempt to acquire veteran Matt Dunigan, who signed with Hamilton rather than return to the Lions, for whom he played in 1988-89. Having unceremoniously dumped last year's starter, Danny McManus (Florida State), in anticipation of landing Dunigan, the Lions were left with Canadian Julio Caravatta (Simon Fraser) as their most experienced quarterback. The Lions had signed rookie Mark Williams (Kansas) and were expected to pursue the much-traveled Damon Allen (Cal Fullerton), who found himself out of work when the expansion Memphis Mad Dogs folded.

Paopao also faced losing slotback Darren Flutie, who had played out his option, but he brought back veteran Ray Alexander (Florida A&M), who had jumped to Ottawa last season, in a trade for Robert Clark (North Carolina Central). Mike Trevathan (Montana), who had 56 catches for 998 yards, Matt Clark (Montana), and newcomer Clarence Verdin, a two-time Pro Bowler with the Indianapolis Colts, are a solid receiving corps. Verdin should provide excitement on kick returns. Cory Philpot (Mississippi), second in rushing with 1,308 yards, and Sean Millington (Simon Fraser) give the Lions as good a running game as there is in the league.

Defensively, the loss of tackle Andrew Stewart (Cincinnati) to Toronto and backs Charles Gordon (Eastern Michigan) and Kelly Sims (Cincinnati) to the NFL will hurt. But in rush end Daved Benefield (Cal Northridge) and linebackers Tyrone Chatman (Arkansas), Henry Newby (Fairmont State), and Shelton Quarles (Vanderbilt) the Lions have the basis for a solid unit.

Edmonton Eskimos

It was mid March and defensive coordinator Rich Stubler had just resigned to take a similar position with the University of Oregon. "We've got the smallest staff meetings in the league," joked head coach Ron Lancaster, who still had not replaced offensive coordinator Joe Paopao, the new head coach of the B.C. Lions.

The Eskimos finished second in the North Division (13-5) after many observers predicted they might not make the playoffs. Much of the success came from a tough defense which allowed a league-low 359 points. Linebacker Willie Pless (Kansas) led the CFL with 101 tackles and was named its outstanding defensive player for the third time. He had able support from the likes of Bennie Goods (Alcorn State), Leroy Blugh (Bishop's), and Malvin Hunter (Wisconsin), along with newcomers Darian Hagan (Colorado) and Singor Mobley (Washington State). The addition of cornerback Grady Cavness (Texas) and Maurice Miller (Wake Forest), who were picked off the San Antonio roster in the dispersal draft, should further strengthen the unit.

Offensively, the Eskimos came out of nowhere to grab free agent quarterback Danny McManus (Florida State), who had been released by the B.C. Lions. Kerwin Bell (Florida), who came on in the second half of the season, was released. The Eskimos were competing with Winnipeg for the services of Kent Austin, who lost his job in Toronto to Doug Flutie. They were also interested in reacquiring Damon Allen, who became a free agent when Memphis folded. There is also third-year man Chris Vargas (Nevada), who has been compared to a young Matt Dunigan.

At least there is a sure-handed receiver in 5-foot-6 Shalon Baker (Montana), who grabbed 79 passes for 1,156 yards and walked off with the Rookie of the Year award. Canadian Nick Mazzoli (Simon Fraser) had struggled in Hamilton and Ottawa but finally blossomed in Edmonton, gaining 1,044 yards on 67 catches. Another huge find was running back Eric Blount (North Carolina), who took over in midseason and still rushed for 677 yards and a league-best 6.9 yard average.

Saskatchewan Roughriders

The western Riders came away from the dispersal draft with two of the league's elite wide receivers in Curtis Mayfield (Oklahoma State) and Rod Harris (Texas A&M), both off the Shreveport roster. They join 10-year pro Donald Narcisse (Texas Southern) and Canadian Ray Elgaard (Utah), the league's all-time receiving leader, in a superb unit. Now all GM Alan Ford and new coach Jim Daley have to do is find someone or some way of getting the ball to them.

Warren Jones (Hawaii) and Tom Burgess (Colgate) struggled last season. While Ford expressed some interest in free agents Damon Allen and Matt Dunigan, he admitted that finances would not permit him to get into a bid for a high-priced passer. One solution could be free agent Danny Barrett (Cincinnati), who missed most of last year with a knee injury in Ottawa.

Situated in the CFL's smallest market, the Riders have annually struggled with their finances. Staging last year's highly successful Grey Cup game earned the club $1.5 million and dropped its deficit to a workable $1 million. That splash of red ink could be further reduced with an improved performance over a 6-12 mark that left the Riders out of the playoffs.

"We need more explosion from our offense," said Ford. "We hope that with the addition of Mayfield and Harris we can go with three import receivers."

Harris missed all but six games in '95 with a serious ankle injury that limited him to eight catches after two 1,000-yard seasons with Sacramento. But Ford is confident last year was "just a glitch" in Harris's career. Mayfield also dropped from a 1,202-yard effort in '94 to 846 yards a year ago, but that could be attributed to Shreveport's reliance on the running game. He was still the Pirates' leading receiver.

Defensively, the acquisition of Mark Ledbetter (Washington State) from Birmingham strengthens a front seven that already boasts Bobby Jurasin (Northern Michigan) and linebacker Ron Goetz (Minnesota).

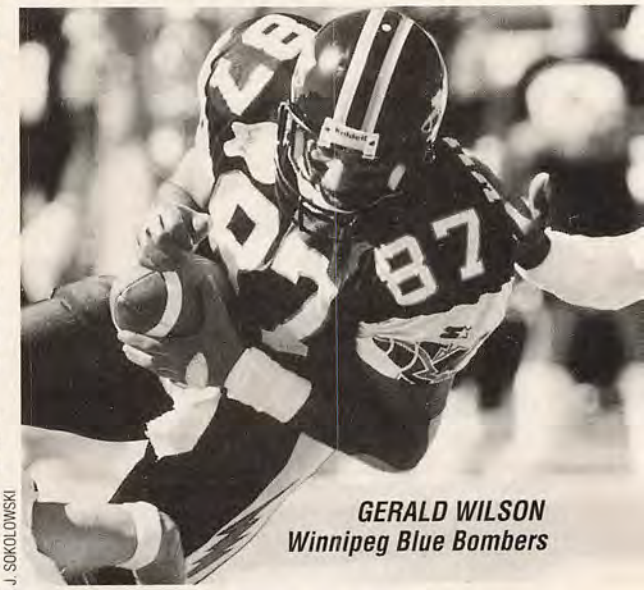
Winnipeg Blue Bombers

The '94 Bombers set a dubious club record for most points given up in a season (572). Then last year's defense allowed a whopping 653 points. General manager and head coach Cal Murphy has set out to restore the team's long-standing reputation for tough defensive football.

Murphy's rebuilding started with the acquisition of free-agent linebacker Tommie Smith (Washington), who spent the past two years with San Antonio/Sacramento. He'll team with holdover Greg Clark (Arizona State) at inside linebacker in the Bombers' 3-4 scheme.

With his first pick in the dispersal draft, Murphy grabbed Birmingham outside linebacker Angelo Snipes (West Georgia), who recorded 17 sacks last season, third-best in the league. Murphy then selected cornerback Damion Lyons (UCLA) from Memphis and halfback Bobby Evans (Southern Arkansas) from Shreveport.

The Bombers were handed a gift when Ottawa sent them veteran all-star defensive end John Kropke (Illinois State) as final payment on a trade last season that sent offensive guard David Black and linebacker Charlie Clemons (Georgia) to the eastern Riders. The re-signing of end Kenny Walker (Nebraska) further enhanced the unit.



J. SOKOLOWSKI

GERALD WILSON
Winnipeg Blue Bombers

On offense the Bombers lost running back Blaise Bryant, who opted for an NFL tryout, but found a more than adequate replacement in ex-Shreveport Pirate Martin Patton (Texas A&I), the CFL's fourth-leading rusher, with 1,040 yards. The Bombers bolstered their receiving corps with San Antonio's Mark Stock (VMI), the former Washington Redskin, and Freeman Baysinger (Humboldt State) from Shreveport, who led the league in kickoff returns. They'll join Canadian slotback Gerald Wilcox (Weber State), whose 69 catches for 1,024 yards led the team for the third consecutive year.

With their final pick of the draft, the Bombers went for Shreveport quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver (Texas Tech), the former Houston Oiler, Atlanta Falcon, and San Diego Charger. Tolliver completed 59 percent of his passes in his first CFL season and could press Reggie Slack (Auburn) for the starting job. Another possibility is Kent Austin (Mississippi), who became expendable in Toronto when the Argos acquired Doug Flutie.

A familiar face will be missing from the Bombers' offensive line. Tackle Miles Gorrell (Ottawa), a 19-year CFL veteran, the last four with Winnipeg, wasn't re-signed and joined the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. ❑

$weet $uccess

$50,000 Grand Prize*

1000 cash prizes **Fantasy Challenge** $100,000* to be given away

$25 to enter; $20 for each additional entry

10 free trades per season, $1 for each additional trade

*$100,000 cash prize fund based on 6,000 entries. If less than 6,000 entries 70% of all entry fees will go to the prize fund. Receive monthly reports including your players points,team totals and rankings. Receive acknowledgement of entryand complete list of rules by April 30, 1996.

Players scored as follows:

Scoring of Offensive players only	
Hits	1pt
RBIs	2pts
Steals	3 pts
Home runs	4pts
Runs scored	2pt

Scoring Pitchers Only	
Shut outs	25pts
Wins	20pts
saves	10pts
strike outs	2pts
Walks	-1pt

$50,000	**grand**	$250	11-25th
$10,000	2nd	$150	26-50th
$ 2,000	3rd	$100	51-100th
$ 1,000	4th	$ 50	101-200th
$ 750	5th	$ 25	201-500th
$ 500	6-10th	$ 20	501-1000th

Each trade will go into effect on the first of each month. Entries and entry fees must be postmarked on or before March 31, 1996. All late entries will be returned.

Circle one player in every box:

A. Belle	Cle	J. Bagwell	Hou	R. Gant	Cin	R. Alomar	Tor	J. Canseco	Bos	M. Alou	Mon
D. Bichette	Col	C. Fielder	Det	T. Gwynn	SD	C. Baerga	Cle	J. Carter	Tor	D. Bell	Hou
B. Bonds	SF	A. Galarraga	Col	K. Lofton	Cle	C. Biggio	Hou	M. Grissom	Atl	J. Buhner	Sea
K. Griffey	Sea	R. Palmeiro	Bal	R. Mondesi	LA	C. Knoblauch	Min	D. Justice	Atl	C. Davis	Cal
F. McGriff	Atl	M. Vaughn	Bos	S. Sosa	Cub	B. Larkin	Cin	K. Puckett	Min	J. Gonzalez	Tex
F. Thomas	Cws	M. Williams	SF	L. Walker	Col	C. Ripkin	Bal	R. Sanders	Cin	G. Sheffield	Fla
B. Bonilla	Bal	D. Daulton	Phi	W. Clark	Tex	B. Boone	Cin	L. Dykstra	Phi	V. Coleman	Sea
K. Caminiti	SD	M. McGwire	Oak	M. Grace	Cub	A. Cedeno	SD	J. Edmunds	Cal	R. Henderson	Oak
T. Fryman	Det	E. Martinez	Sea	G. Jefferies	Stl	D. Deshields	LA	G. Hill	SF	B. McRoe	Cub
C. Hayes	Phi	M. Piazza	LA	T. Martinez	NYY	S. Dunston	Cub	P. O'Neill	NYY	O. Nixon	Tex
C. Jones	Atl	M. Ramirez	Cle	E. Murray	Cle	R. Durham	Cws	T. Salmon	Cal	T. Phillips	Cal
R. Ventura	Cws	R. Sandberg	Cub	J. Thome	Cle	J. Kent	Met	R. Sierra	NYY	D. White	Fla
V. Castilla	Col	S. Alomar	Cle	B. Ashley	LA	C. Curtis	Det	K. Appier	KC	A. Benes	Sea
W. Joyner	KC	C. Hoiles	Bal	M. Cordova	Min	G. Gaetti	KC	R. Clemons	Bos	O. Hershiser	Cle
E. Karros	LA	M. McFarlene	Bos	S. Green	Tor	J. Olerud	Tor	D. Cone	NYY	J. Key	NYY
R. Klesko	Alt	I. Rodriquez	Tex	J. Nunnaly	KC	D. Palmer	Tex	R. Johnson	Sea	M. Mussina	Bal
P. Molitor	Min	T. Steinbach	Oak	T. Tarasco	Mon	G. Vaughn	Mil	G. Maddox	Atl	J. Rijo	Cin
T. Zeile	Cub	M. Tettleton	Tex	Q. Veras	Fla	T. Wallach	LA	H. Nomo	LA	T. Wakefield	Bos
T. Glavine	Atl	J. Abbott	Cal	W. Alverez	Cws	J. Bere	Cws	D. Eckersly	Oak	R. Aguilara	Min
M. Langston	Cal	S. Avery	Atl	D. Drabek	Hou	J. Isringhausen	Met	T. Henke	StL	B. Ayala	Sea
J. McDowell	NYY	C. Eldred	Mil	J. Fassera	Mon	B. Pulsipher	Met	J. Mesa	Cle	J. Franco	Met
P. Martinez	Mon	K. Hill	Cle	E. Hanson	Bos	A. Sele	Bos	R. Myers	Cub	R. Hernandez	Cws
B. Saberhagan	Col	D. Martinez	Cle	B. McDonald	Bal	T. Stottlemyre	Oak	L. Smith	Bal	J. Montgomery	KC
J. Smoltz	Atl	B. Swift	Col	S. Ontiveros	Oak	T. Van Poppel	Oak	J. Wetteland	NYY	M. Wohlers	Atl

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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

1995 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	435	291
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	318	338
Washington	6	10	0	.375	326	359
New York	5	11	0	.313	290	340
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	275	422
Central Division						
Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	404	314
Detroit	10	6	0	.625	436	336
Chicago	9	7	0	.563	392	360
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	412	385
Tampa Bay	7	9	0	.438	238	335
Western Division						
San Francisco	11	5	0	.688	457	258
Atlanta	9	7	0	.563	362	349
St. Louis	7	9	0	.438	309	418
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	319	348
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	289	325

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	350	335
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	331	316
Miami	9	7	0	.563	398	332
New England	6	10	0	.375	294	377
New York	3	13	0	.188	233	384
Central Division						
Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	407	327
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	349	374
Houston	7	9	0	.438	348	324
Cleveland	5	11	0	.313	289	356
Jacksonville	4	12	0	.250	275	404
Western Division						
Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	358	241
San Diego	9	7	0	.563	321	323
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	363	366
Denver	8	8	0	.500	388	345
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	348	332

SUPER BOWL XXX

At Tempe, AZ, January 28, 1996

Dallas	10	3	7	7	27
Pittsburgh	0	7	0	10	17

Scoring

Dallas: FG Boniol 42, 2:55 1st
Dallas: Novacek 3 pass from Aikman (Boniol kick), 9:37 1st
Dallas: FG Boniol 35, 8:57 2nd
Pittsburgh: Thigpen 6 pass from O'Donnell (N. Johnson kick), 14:47 2nd
Dallas: E. Smith 1 run (Boniol kick), 8:18 3rd
Pittsburgh: FG N. Johnson 46, 3:40 4th
Pittsburgh: Morris 1 run (N. Johnson kick), 8:24 4th
Dallas: E. Smith 4 run (Boniol kick), 11:17 4th
Attendance: 76,347

Team Statistics

	Dallas	*Pittsburgh*
Points	27	17
Rushing yards	56	103
Passing yards	198	207
Return yards	125	114
Sacked-yards lost	2-11	4-32
Punts	5-191	4-179
Third downs	2-10	9-19
Fourth downs	1-1	2-4
Time of possession	26:11	33:49

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Dallas, E. Smith 18-49, Johnston 2-8, K. Williams 1-2, Aikman 4-minus 3; Pittsburgh, Morris 19-73, Pegram 6-15, Stewart 4-15, O'Donnell 1-0, J. Williams 1-0
Passing: Dallas, Aikman 15-23-0-209; Pittsburgh, O'Donnell 49-28-3-239
Receiving: Dallas, Irvin 5-76, Novacek 5-50, K. Williams 2-29, Sanders 1-47, Johnston 1-4, E. Smith 1-3; Pittsburgh, Hastings 10-98, Mills 8-78, Thigpen 3-19, Morris 3-18, Holliday 2-19, J. Williams 2-7
Interceptions: Dallas, L. Brown 2-77, Marion 1-0
Sacks: Dallas, Hennings 2, Tolbert 1, Haley 1; Pittsburgh, Kirkland 1, Seals 1
Missed Field Goals: None

PAST SUPER BOWLS

1967 ....Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
1968 ....Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
1969 ....New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
1970 ....Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
1971 ....Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
1972 ....Dallas 24, Miami 3
1973 ....Miami 14, Washington 7
1974 ....Miami 24, Minnesota 7
1975 ....Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
1976 ....Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
1977 ....Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
1978 ....Dallas 27, Denver 10
1979 ....Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
1980 ....Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
1981 ....Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
1982 ....San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
1983 ....Washington 27, Miami 17
1984 ....Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9
1985 ....San Francisco 38, Miami 16
1986 ....Chicago 46, New England 10
1987 ....New York Giants 39, Denver 20
1988 ....Washington 42, Denver 10
1989 ....San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16
1990 ....San Francisco 55, Denver 10
1991 ....New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19
1992 ....Washington 37, Buffalo 24
1993 ....Dallas 52, Buffalo 17
1994 ....Dallas 30, Buffalo 13
1995 ....San Francisco 49, San Diego 26
1996 ....Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17

SUPER BOWL MVPS

1967 ....Bart Starr, *Green Bay Packers*
1968 ....Bart Starr, *Green Bay Packers*
1969 ....Joe Namath, *New York Jets*
1970 ....Len Dawson, *Kansas City Chiefs*
1971 ....Chuck Howley, *Dallas Cowboys*
1972 ....Roger Staubach, *Dallas Cowboys*
1973 ....Jake Scott, *Miami Dolphins*
1974 ....Larry Csonka, *Miami Dolphins*
1975 ....Franco Harris, *Pittsburgh Steelers*
1976 ....Lynn Swann, *Pittsburgh Steelers*
1977 ....Fred Biletnikoff, *Oakland Raiders*
1978 ....Randy White, Harvey Martin, *Dallas Cowboys*
1979 ....Terry Bradshaw, *Pittsburgh Steelers*
1980 ....Terry Bradshaw, *Pittsburgh Steelers*
1981 ....Jim Plunkett, *Oakland Raiders*
1982 ....Joe Montana, *San Francisco 49ers*
1983 ....John Riggins, *Washington Redskins*
1984 ....Marcus Allen, *Los Angeles Raiders*
1985 ....Joe Montana, *San Francisco 49ers*
1986 ....Richard Dent, *Chicago Bears*
1987 ....Phil Simms, *New York Giants*
1988 ....Doug Williams, *Washington Redskins*
1989 ....Jerry Rice, *San Francisco 49ers*
1990 ....Joe Montana, *San Francisco 49ers*
1991 ....Ottis Anderson, *New York Giants*
1992 ....Mark Rypien, *Washington Redskins*
1993 ....Troy Aikman, *Dallas Cowboys*
1994 ....Emmitt Smith, *Dallas Cowboys*
1995 ....Steve Young, *San Francisco 49ers*
1996 ....Larry Brown, *Dallas Cowboys*

FIRST ROUND GAMES

Philadelphia 58, Detroit 37
Green Bay 37, Atlanta 20
Buffalo 37, Miami 22
Indianapolis 35, San Diego 20

SECOND ROUND GAMES

Green Bay 27, San Francisco 17
Dallas 30, Philadelphia 11
Pittsburgh 40, Buffalo 21
Indianapolis 10, Kansas City 7

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas 38, Green Bay 27
Pittsburgh 20, Indianapolis 16

SUPER BOWL XXX

Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17

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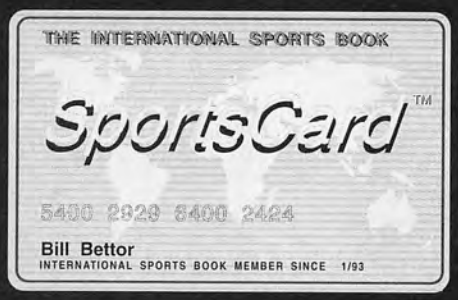

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NFC final statistics

SCORING

RECORDS
Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
Touchdowns: 25, Emmitt Smith, Dallas (1995)
Field Goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
Extra Points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
49ers	57	19	29	9	51	54	2	20	28	0	457
Lions	50	16	33	1	48	48	1	28	34	1	436
Cowboys	51	29	18	4	46	48	1	27	28	0	435
Vikings	48	10	33	5	44	44	1	26	36	0	412
Packers	49	9	39	1	48	48	1	20	28	0	404
Bears	46	15	29	2	45	45	0	23	31	1	392
Falcons	38	8	26	4	29	30	3	33	40	0	362
Redskins	35	15	16	4	33	33	0	27	36	1	326
Saints	38	11	26	1	27	29	2	20	31	0	319
Eagles	36	19	11	6	32	33	2	22	30	0	318
Rams	37	5	27	5	30	31	2	17	28	1	309
N.Y. Giants	33	17	11	5	28	28	1	20	28	1	290
Panthers	30	10	16	4	27	28	2	26	33	0	289
Cardinals	26	3	17	6	19	19	5	30	39	0	275
Buccaneers	26	19	5	2	25	25	0	19	26	0	238

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Hanson, Jason, Det.	48	48	28	34	132
Boniol, Chris, Dall.	46	48	27	28	127
Andersen, Morten, Atl.	29	30	31	37	122
Reveiz, Fuad, Minn.	44	44	26	36	122
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	45	45	23	31	114
Murray, Eddie, Wash.	33	33	27	36	114
Davis, Greg, Ari.	19	19	30	39	109
Kasay, John, Car.	27	28	26	33	105
Anderson, Gary, Phil.	32	33	22	30	98
Jacke, Chris, G.B.	43	43	17	23	94
Brien, Doug, S.F.-N.O.	35	35	19	29	92
Daluiso, Brad, Giants	28	28	20	28	88
Husted, Michael, T.B.	25	25	19	26	82
Wilkins, Jeff, S.F.	27	29	12	13	63
McLaughlin, Steve, St.L.	17	17	8	16	41
Biasucci, Dean, StL.	13	14	9	12	40
Lohmiller, Chip, N.O.	11	13	8	14	35
Hentrich, Craig, G.B.	5	5	3	5	14
Zendejas, Tony, Atl.-S.F.	5	6	3	6	14

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	25	25	0	0	150
Rice, Jerry, S.F.*	17	1	15	1	104
Carter, Cris, Minn.	17	0	17	0	102
Moore, Herman, Det.	14	0	14	0	84
Bruce, Isaac, St.L.*	13	0	13	0	80
Loville, Derek, S.F.*	13	10	3	0	80
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	13	0	13	0	78
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	12	0	12	0	72
Sanders, Barry, Det.	12	11	1	0	72
Watters, Ricky, Phil.	12	11	1	0	72
Allen, Terry, Wash.	11	10	1	0	66
Rhett, Errict, T.B.	11	11	0	0	66
Hampton, Rodney, Giants*	10	10	0	0	62
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	10	0	10	0	60
Mathis, Terance, Atl*	9	0	9	0	60
Metcalf, Eric, Atl.	10	1	8	1	60
Salaam, Rashaan, Chi.	10	10	0	0	60
Perriman, Brett, Det.*	9	0	9	0	56
Reed, Jake, Minn.	9	0	9	0	54
Early, Quinn, N.O.	8	0	8	0	48
Heyward, Craig, Atl.	8	6	2	0	48
Morton, Johnnie, Det.	8	0	8	0	48
Chmura, Mark, G.B.*	7	0	7	0	44
Bates, Mario, N.O.	7	7	0	0	42
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	7	3	4	0	42
Levens, Dorsey, G.B.	7	3	4	0	42
Garner, Charlie, Phil.	6	6	0	0	36
Green, Willie, Car.	6	0	6	0	36
Jennings, Keith, Chi.	6	0	6	0	36
Small, Torrance, N.O.	6	1	5	0	36
Barnett, Fred, Phil.*	5	0	5	0	32
Moore, Rob, Ari.*	5	0	5	0	32
Novacek, Jay, Dall.*	5	0	5	0	32
Smith, Robert, Minn.*	5	5	0	0	32
Ellard, Henry, Wash.	5	0	5	0	30
Ellison, Jerry, T.B.	5	5	0	0	30
Emanuel, Bert, Atl.	5	0	5	0	30
Walls, Wesley, N.O.*	4	0	4	0	26
Brown, Dave, Giants	4	4	0	0	24
Centers, Larry, Ari.	4	2	2	0	24
Drayton, Troy, St.L.	4	0	4	0	24
Graham, Jeff, Chi.	4	0	4	0	24
Haynes, Michael, N.O.	4	0	4	0	24
Kinchen, Todd, StL.	4	0	4	0	24
Mitchell, Scott, Det.	4	4	0	0	24
Moore, Derrick, Car.	4	4	0	0	24
Morgan, Anthony, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Sherrard, Mike, Giants	4	0	4	0	24
Stokes, J.J., S.F.	4	0	4	0	24
Smith, Irv, N.O.*	3	0	3	0	22
Bettis, Jerome, St.L.	3	3	0	0	18
Calloway, Chris, Giants	3	0	3	0	18
Carrier, Mark, Car.	3	0	3	0	18
Collins, Kerry, Car.	3	3	0	0	18
Favre, Brett, G.B.	3	3	0	0	18
Floyd, William, S.F.	3	2	1	0	18
Green, Robert, Chi.	3	3	0	0	18
Hester, Jessie, St.L.	3	0	3	0	18
Ingram, Mark, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	3	0	3	0	18
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	3	2	1	0	18
Jones, Brent, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18
Lee, Amp, Minn.	3	2	1	0	18
Logan, Marc, Wash.	3	1	2	0	18
Metzelaars, Pete, Car.	3	0	3	0	18
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	3	1	1	1	18
Shepherd, Leslie, Wash.	3	1	2	0	18
Timpson, Michael, Chi.	3	1	2	0	18
Wheatley, Tyrone, Giants	3	3	0	0	18
Williams, Aeneas, Ari.	3	0	0	3	18
Young, Steve, S.F.	3	3	0	0	18
Sanders, Frank, Ari.*	2	0	2	0	16
Bailey, Johnny, St.L.*	2	2	0	0	14
Williams, Calvin, Phil.*	2	0	2	0	14
Brown, Derek, N.O.	2	1	1	0	12
Brown, Larry, Dall.	2	0	0	2	12
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Dilfer, Trent, T.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Dorn, Torin, St.L.	2	0	0	2	12
Edwards, Anthony, Ari.	2	0	2	0	12
Evans, Charles, Minn.	2	1	1	0	12
Flanigan, Jim, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Gaines, Wendall, Ari.	2	0	2	0	12
Galbraith, Scott, Wash.	2	0	2	0	12
Graham, Scottie, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Grbac, Elvis, S.F.	2	2	0	0	12
Griffith, Howard, Car.	2	1	1	0	12
Guliford, Eric, Car.	2	0	1	1	12
Harper, Alvin, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Hearst, Garrison, Ari.	2	1	1	0	12
Johnson, Reggie, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Jordan, Andrew, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Jordan, Charles, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Lewis, Thomas, Giants	2	0	1	1	12
McBride, Oscar, Ari.	2	0	2	0	12
McDonald, Tim, S.F.	2	0	0	2	12
Norton, Ken, S.F.	2	0	0	2	12
Taylor, John, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Thomas, Orlanda, Minn.	2	0	0	2	12
Westbrook, Michael, Wash.	2	1	1	0	12
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Wright, Alexander, St.L.	2	0	2	0	12
Zellars, Ray, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12
Anderson, Steve, Ari.*	1	0	1	0	10
Christian, Bob, Car.*	1	0	1	0	8
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Anderson, Jamal, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Armstead, Jesse, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Beebe, Don, Car.	1	0	1	0	6
Bell, Coleman, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Birden, J.J., Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Carter, Tony, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Carter, Dexter, Jets-S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Carter, Tom, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Cook, Marv, St.L.	1	0	1	0	6

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Place	Prize	Odds
1st	$1000	1 out of 30
2nd	$500	earns
3rd	$300	$1000.
4th	$200	1 out of 6
5th	free entry	earn prizes.

HERE ARE THE BASIC RULES (with some new changes for 1996):

1. Use a **$50 million salary cap FOR ALL 27 PLAYERS** (using our listed salaries & positions).
Any non-listed player can be drafted for $1.0 million. Call for position eligibility.
2. Each team consists of 27-players (18 Active Players & 9 Reserve Players).
3. ***New For 1996:*** **FREE AGENTS** (up to 5 per team during the season)
The ONLY available free agents are those players listed in our ad at $0.8 million.
To sign a free agent, you must release one of your players at the same position.
Once a player is released, you cannot reactivate him (even if he is one of the players listed in the free agent pool).
4. You will be randomly placed in a league consisting of 30 teams.
5. Each league competes in the following 11 categories using the position requirements shown below:

1) Rushing Yds 2) Yds/Run 3) Receiving Yards 4) Yds/Reception 5) FG's Kicked 6) Extra-Pts Kicked
7) Passing Yds 8) Rushing TD's 9) Receiving TD's 10) Passing TD's 11) Passing Passing TD's minus Interceptions
NOTE: All players can contribute to each statistical category. ie: RB's can catch & throw passes, etc.

ACTIVE ROSTER: ***4 Quarterbacks, 4 Running Backs, 4 Receivers, 2 Tight Ends & 4 Kickers***
RESERVE ROSTER: ***2 Quarterbacks, 2 Running Backs, 2 Receivers, 1 Tight End & 2 Kickers***

SCORING: League standings are based on cumulative stats for your active roster players. Reserve players don't count until activated. For each category, teams are ranked from 30 pts (best) to 1 pt (worst). Points are added up & standings are updated weekly. League prizes are awarded after the regular season.

WEEKLY UPDATES: Updates are faxed, mailed or E-mailed (same price), starting after week 2. Each update includes: 1) League standings, 2) Your recent roster moves, 3) Detailed stats for your team (active roster, full season & last week's stats), 4) Active roster stats for all teams 30 in your league (mail & E-mail only).

ROSTER MOVES: You can make weekly roster moves between your active & reserve roster (if paid for in advance) as follows:
Phone: 1-800-STATS-67 Fax: 1-908-634-3045 E-mail: statman@injersey.com
Roster moves must be received by Saturday at 8:00 PM Eastern Time to go into effect for Sunday & Monday games. Roster moves involving players in Thursday or Saturday games MUST be received before the start of the game. A player can only be included in ONE roster move per week, so you can't activate a player for Thursday & then reserve him for Sunday (or vice versa). Stats count from Tuesday thru Monday. Pre-season moves (between active & reserve roster) are allowed for processed entries. Once the season begins, the 1st weekly roster moves take effect Sept 15th.

FREE AGENTS: Each team will be able to purchase up to 5 free agents during the season (from a limited list of players). The ONLY available free agents are those players listed in our ad at $0.8 million. This list will not change during the season. To sign a free agent, you must release a player on your team at the same position (who cannot be reactivated for the rest of the season).

ADD'L RULES & INFO: The 1996 Fantasy Football Championships is a game of skill in which entrants use their knowledge of football & coaching skills to compete for prizes. You must be 18 years or older to participate. Void where prohibited by law. Statman-Plus is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail. There is a $25 fee for any returned check or cancelled entry. Prizes are prorated for any league with less than 30 teams. Statman-Plus reserves the right to modify rules to improve the Fantasy Football Championships. Not affiliated with the NFL. Player names are used for informational purposes only.

COST TO ENTER: **A) The DELUXE ENTRY** is $175 per team by mail or fax (or $185 per phone entry), & includes weekly updates plus ALL transactions. If you choose the DELUXE ENTRY, there will be no additional cost to make unlimited weekly roster moves or to sign up to 5 free agents.
B) The BASIC ENTRY is $115 per team by mail or fax (or $125 per phone entry) & includes weekly updates. Transactions cost $2 each, payable in advance. If you choose the BASIC ENTRY, you must pay $2 per weekly roster move (unlimited) & $2 for each free agent signing (up to 5).

HOW TO ENTER: Fill out our enclosed entry form. We only accept VISA & Mastercard for Fax & Phone entries. To enter by Mail, include a check or money order for the full amount (payable to Statman-Plus) at the address below. To enter by Phone, call 1-800-STATS-67. To enter by Fax, dial 1-908-634-3045. Multiple paid entries are allowed. Multiple paid entries can be placed in the same 30-team league or in separate leagues... it's up to you.

ENTRY DEADLINE: All mail entries must be postmarked by 8/31/96. All fax and phone entries must be received by 8:00 PM Eastern Time on 8/31/96.

No purchase necessary. To receive a one-time team selection entry form void of all services, send a letter sized (4 1/8" x 9 1/2"), self addressed, stamped envelope to Statman-Plus, Dept VAS, at the address below. All requests must be postmarked by 8/15/96. One request per household. One request per envelope. Residents of VT & WA may omit return postage.

STATMAN-PLUS, INC's 1996 FANTASY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Players' Salaries (in $ millions) & Position Eligibility

Players (listed on teams as of May 1, 1996) can be used only at the position listed below. Any non-listed player can be drafted for $1.0 million, & used only at his primary position.

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	SAL
Favre, Brett	GB	4.4
Young, Steve	SF	4.4
Elway, John	DEN	4.0
Moon, Warren	MIN	4.0
Marino, Dan	MIA	3.6
Mitchell, Scott	DET	3.6
Blake, Jeff	CIN	3.2
Kramer, Erik	CHI	3.2
Aikman, Troy	DAL	2.8
Bono, Steve	KC	2.8
Everett, Jim	NO	2.6
George, Jeff	F/A	2.6
Harbaugh, Jim	F/A	2.2
Humphries, Stan	SD	2.2
Kelly, Jim	BUF	2.2
Bledsoe, Drew	NE	1.8
O'Donnell, Neil	NYJ	1.8
Testaverde, Vinny	CLE	1.8
Brown, Dave	F/A	1.6
Dilfer, Trent	TB	1.6
Hostetler, Jeff	RAI	1.6
Chandler, Chris	HOU	1.4
Krieg, Dave	F/A	1.4
Miller, Chris	STL	1.4
Collins, Kerry	CAR	1.2
Shuler, Heath	WAS	1.2
Mirer, Rick	SEA	1.2
Friesz, John	SEA	1.0
Miller, Jim	PIT	1.0
Peete, Rodney	PHI	1.0
Brunell, Mark	JAC	0.8
Cunningham, Ra.	F/A	0.8
Grbac, Elvis	SF	0.8
Frerotte, Gus	WAS	0.8
Stewart, Kordell	PIT	0.8

RUNNING BACK	TEAM	SAL
Smith, Emmitt	DAL	5.0
Sanders, Barry	DET	4.4
Martin, Curtis	NE	3.8
Warren, Chris	SEA	3.8
Watters, Ricky	PHI	3.8
Bennett, Edgar	GB	3.4
Davis, Terrell	DEN	3.4
Faulk, Marshall	IND	3.4
Allen, Terry	F/A	3.0
Loville, Derek	SF	3.0
Williams, Harvey	RAI	3.0
Heyward, Craig	ATL	2.8
Rhett, Errict	TB	2.8
Thomas, Thurman	BUF	2.8
Hampton, Rodney	NYG	2.6
Means, Natrone	JAC	2.6
Parmalee, Bernie	MIA	2.6
Bettis, Jerome	PIT	2.4
Hearst, Garrison	F/A	2.4
Salaam, Rashaan	CHI	2.4
Floyd, William	SF	2.2
Murrell, Adrian	NYJ	2.2
Smith, Robert	F/A	2.2
Bates, Mario	NO	2.0
Carter, Ki-Jana	CIN	2.0
Phillips, Lawrence	STL	2.0
Allen, Marcus	KC	1.8
Centers, Larry	ARZ	1.8
Kirby, Terry	F/A	1.8
Biakabutuka, Tim	CAR	1.6
Green, Robert	CHI	1.6
Moore, Derrick	F/A	1.6
Byner, Earnest	F/A	1.4
Garner, Charlie	PHI	1.4
Green, Harold	F/A	1.4

RUNNING BACK	TEAM	SAL
Harmon, Ronnie	F/A	1.4
Holmes, Darick	BUF	1.4
Thomas, Rodney	HOU	1.4
Bernstine, Rod	DEN	1.2
Bieniemy, Eric	CIN	1.2
Craver, Aaron	DEN	1.2
Lee, Amp	MIN	1.2
Meggett, David	NE	1.2
Stewart, James	JAC	1.2
Brown, Gary	HOU	1.0
Hill, Greg	KC	1.0
Hoard, Leroy	CLE	1.0
McNair, Todd	HOU	1.0
Morris, Byron	PIT	1.0
Pegram, Eric	PIT	1.0
Anders, Kimble	KC	0.8
Baxter, Brad	NYJ	0.8
Brown, Derek	F/A	0.8
Byars, Keith	MIA	0.8
Dunbar, Vaughn	F/A	0.8
Graham, Scottie	F/A	0.8
Kaufman, Napoleon	RAI	0.8
Levens, Dorsey	GB	0.8
Mitchell, Brian	WAS	0.8
Potts, Roosevelt	F/A	0.8

TIGHT END	TEAM	SAL
Coates, Ben	NE	2.6
Sharpe, Shannon	DEN	2.6
McGee, Tony	F/A	2.2
Novacek, Jay	DAL	2.2
Chmura, Mark	GB	1.8
Mitchell, Johnn	F/A	1.8
Dudley, Ricky	RAI	1.4
Jones, Brent	SF	1.4
Walls, Wesley	CAR	1.4

RECEIVER	TEAM	SAL
Rice, Jerry	SF	4.6
Moore, Herman	DET	4.2
Brooks, Robert	GB	3.8
Bruce, Isaac	STL	3.8
Carter, Chris	MIN	3.8
Irvin, Michael	DAL	3.4
Perriman, Brett	DET	3.4
Pickens, Carl	CIN	3.4
Brown, Tim	RAI	3.0
Metcalf, Eric	ATL	3.0
Miller, Anthony	DEN	3.0
Conway, Curtis	CHI	2.8
Galloway, Joey	SEA	2.8
Johnson, Keyshawn	NYJ	2.8
Graham, Jeff	NYJ	2.6
Mathis, Terance	F/A	2.6
Reed, Jake	MIN	2.6
Anderson, Willie	IND	2.4
Martin, Tony	SD	2.4
Thigpen, Yancey	PIT	2.4
Brooks, Bill	F/A	2.2
Early, Quinn	BUF	2.2
Fryar, Irving	PHI	2.2
Brisby, Vincent	F/A	2.0
Green, Willie	CAR	2.0

TIGHT END	TEAM	SAL
Dilger, Ken	IND	1.0
Drayton, Troy	F/A	1.0
Green, Eric	MIA	1.0
Harris, Jackie	TB	1.0
Brady, Kyle	NYJ	0.8
Bruener, Mark	PIT	0.8
Jennings, Keith	CHI	0.8
Mitchell, Pete	JAC	0.8
Smith, Irv	NO	0.8

RECEIVER	TEAM	SAL
Reed, Andre	F/A	2.0
Blades, Brian	SEA	1.8
Ellard, Henry	WAS	1.8
Jackson, Michael	CLE	1.8
Moore, Rob	ARZ	1.6
Sanders, Chris	HOU	1.6
Westbrook, Michael	WAS	1.6
Carrier, Mark J	CAR	1.4
Emanuel, Bert	ATL	1.4
Haynes, Michael	NO	1.4
McDuffie, O.J.	MIA	1.4
Sanders, Frank	ARZ	1.4
Scott, Darnay	CIN	1.4
Barnett, Fred	MIA	1.2
Jeffires, Haywood	F/A	1.2
Mills, Ernie	PIT	1.2
Rison, Andre	CLE	1.2
Stokes, J.J.	SF	1.2
Wright, Alex.	STL	1.2
Calloway, Chris	NYG	1.0
Davis, Willie	HOU	1.0
Harper, Alvin	TB	1.0
Ismail, Qadry	MIN	1.0
Moore, Will	NE	1.0
Williams, Calvin	PHI	1.0
Copeland, Russell	F/A	0.8
Dawkins, Sean	IND	0.8
Dawson, Lake	KC	0.8
Ingram, Mark	F/A	0.8
Ismail, Raghib	F/A	0.8
Jefferson, Shawn	NE	0.8
McCardell, Keenan	JAC	0.8
Sherrard, Mike	F/A	0.8
Small, Torrance	NO	0.8
Williams, Kevin	DAL	0.8

KICKER	TEAM	SAL
Boniol, Chris	DAL	1.8
Elam, Jason	DEN	1.8
Hanson, Jason	DET	1.8
Johnson, Norm	PIT	1.8
Reveiz, Fuad	MIN	1.8
Brien, Doug	NO	1.6
Butler, Kevin	CHI	1.6
Christie, Steve	BUF	1.6
Jacke, Chris	GB	1.6
Stoyanovich, Pete	MIA	1.6
Andersen, Mort.	ATL	1.4
Del Greco, Al	HOU	1.4
Murray, Eddie	F/A	1.4
Pelfrey, Doug	F/A	1.4
Wilkins, Jeff	SF	1.4
Anderson, G.	PHI	1.2
Blanchard, Cary	IND	1.2
Elliott, Lin	F/A	1.2
Jaeger, Jeff	RAI	1.2
Peterson, Todd	SEA	1.2
Bahr, Matt	NE	1.0
Carney, John	SD	1.0
Cofer, Mike	IND	1.0
Kasay, John	CAR	1.0
Stover, Matt	CLE	1.0
Lohmiller, Chip	STL	0.8
Daluiso, Brad	NYG	0.8
Davis, Greg	ARZ	0.8
Husted, Michael	TB	0.8
Lowery, Nick	NYJ	0.8

Note: To select a free agent, you must release a player at the same position. Once released, that player can't be reactivated for your team.

STATMAN-PLUS, INC: 1996 ENTRY FORM...DETACH AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT...STATMAN-PLUS, INC: 1996 ENTRY FORM...DETACH AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

Active Players	Salary	Active Players	Salary	Reserve Players	Salary
QB		REC		QB	
QB		REC		QB	
QB		REC		RB	
QB		TE		RB	
RB		TE		REC	
RB		K		REC	
RB		K		TE	
RB		K		K	
REC		K		K	

Total 27-man salary = $_____

Only players with salaries of 0.8 can be selected as free agents

Fill out entry form, & return with payment
STATMAN-PLUS, INC.
708 MAPLE HILL DR
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Your Name:
Team Name:
Address:
City: State: Zip:
Which publication did you see our ad in?
Phone #: ( ) Fax #: ( )

AD #FB22
☐ Basic Entry = $115 per entry
☐ Deluxe Entry = $175 per entry
(Add $10 for phone entries)
Multiple paid entries are allowed.
Sign up by August 31, 1996.

Updates via Fax: _____ or Mail: _____ or E-mail: _____
E-mail Address: _____

For Credit Card Orders: (VISA _____ or Mastercard _____ only):
Credit Card #: Exp Date:
Cardholder's Name:
Signature:

Davis, Eric, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Douglas, Omar, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Freeman, Antonio, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Frerotte, Gus, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Fuller, Corey, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Glenn, Vencie, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Darrell, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Hanks, Merton, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Harris, Jackie, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Henderson, Jerome, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Alfred, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Greg, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Keith, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Anthony, Car.	1	1	0	0	6
Johnson, Kevin, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Sean, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Kragen, Greg, Car.	1	0	0	1	6
Kramer, Erik, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Lumpkin, Sean, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Lyght, Todd, St.L.	1	0	0	1	6
Lynch, Lorenzo, Ari.	1	0	0	1	6
Marion, Brock, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Marshall, Anthony, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Marshall, Arthur, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Mayhew, Martin, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
McCants, Keith, Ari.	1	0	0	1	6
McCrary, Fred, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
McKyer, Tim, Car.	1	0	0	1	6
Mills, Sam, Car.	1	0	0	1	6
Minter, Barry, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Montgomery, Alton, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
Palmer, David, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Parker, Anthony, St.L.	1	0	0	1	6
Peete, Rodney, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Preston, Roell, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Rivers, Ron, Det.	1	1	0	0	6
Ross, Kevin, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Sapp, Warren, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Scroggins, Tracy, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Simmons, Clyde, Ari.	1	0	0	1	6
Singleton, Nate, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Sloan, David, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Thomas, William, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Truitt, Olanda, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Tuggle, Jessie, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Walker, Adam, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Walker, Herschel, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Way, Charles, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Weldon, Casey, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
West, Ed, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Sherman, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Witherspoon, Derrick, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Woodall, Lee, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Woods, Tony, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Woodson, Darren, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Wooten, Tito, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Wright, Toby, St.L.	1	0	0	1	6
Zordich, Michael, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Blades, Bennie, Det.	0	0	0	0	#2
Brownlow, Darrick, Wash.	0	0	0	0	#2
Carter, Kevin, St.L.	0	0	0	0	#2
Fontenot, Al, Chi.	0	0	0	0	#2
Rasby, Walter, Car.*	0	0	0	0	2
Strahan, Michael, Giants	0	0	0	0	#2

** = Two-Point Conversion(s) # = Safety*

RUSHING

RECORDS
Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)
Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)
TDs: 25, Emmitt Smith, Dallas (1995)

30 OR MORE YARDS	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	377	1773	4.7	t60	25
Sanders, Barry, Det.	314	1500	4.8	t75	11
Allen, Terry, Wash.	338	1309	3.9	28	10
Watters, Ricky, Phil.	337	1273	3.8	57	11
Rhett, Errict, T.B.	332	1207	3.6	21	11
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	306	1182	3.9	32	10
Heyward, Craig, Atl.	236	1083	4.6	31	6
Salaam, Rashaan, Chi.	296	1074	3.6	42	10
Hearst, Garrison, Ari.	284	1070	3.8	38	1
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	316	1067	3.4	23	3
Bates, Mario, N.O.	244	951	3.9	t66	7
Moore, Derrick, Car.	195	740	3.8	t53	4
Loville, Derek, S.F.	218	723	3.3	27	10
Bettis, Jerome, St.L.	183	637	3.5	41	3
Smith, Robert, Minn.	139	632	4.5	t58	5
Garner, Charlie, Phil.	108	588	5.4	t55	6
Green, Robert, Chi.	107	570	5.3	38	3
Graham, Scottie, Minn.	110	406	3.7	26	2
Lee, Amp, Minn.	69	371	5.4	t66	2
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	46	301	6.5	t36	1
Centers, Larry, Ari.	78	254	3.3	20	2
Young, Steve, S.F.	50	250	5.0	29	3

PASSING

RECORDS
Completions: 377, Warren Moon, Minnesota (1995)
Touchdowns: 38, Brett Favre, Green Bay (1995)
Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)
Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frankie Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)
99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)
99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)
99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Jerry Allen, Washington (1968)
99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)
99 yards, Brett Favre to Robert Brooks, Green Bay (1995)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Favre, Brett, G.B.	570	359	63.0	4413	7.74	38	6.7	t99	13	2.3	33	217	99.5
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	432	280	64.8	3304	7.65	16	3.7	50	7	1.6	14	89	93.6
Kramer, Erik, Chi.	522	315	60.3	3838	7.35	29	5.6	t76	10	1.9	15	95	93.5
Young, Steve, S.F.	447	299	66.9	3200	7.16	20	4.5	57	11	2.5	25	115	92.3
Mitchell, Scott, Det.	583	346	59.3	4338	7.44	32	5.5	t91	12	2.1	31	145	92.3
Moon, Warren, Minn.	606	377	62.2	4228	6.98	33	5.4	t85	14	2.3	38	277	91.5
George, Jeff, Atl.	557	336	60.3	4143	7.44	24	4.3	t62	11	2.0	43	270	89.5
Everett, Jim, N.O.	567	345	60.8	3970	7.00	26	4.6	t70	14	2.5	27	210	87.0
Miller, Chris, St.L.	405	232	57.3	2623	6.48	18	4.4	72	15	3.7	31	244	76.2
Brown, Dave, Giants	456	254	55.7	2814	6.17	11	2.4	t57	10	2.2	44	206	73.1
Krieg, Dave, Ari.	521	304	58.3	3554	6.82	16	3.1	48	21	4.0	53	380	72.6
Frerotte, Gus, Wash.	396	199	50.3	2751	6.95	13	3.3	t73	13	3.3	23	192	70.2
Peete, Rodney, Phil.	375	215	57.3	2326	6.20	8	2.1	t37	14	3.7	33	166	67.3
Collins, Kerry, Car.	432	214	49.5	2717	6.27	14	3.2	t89	19	4.4	24	150	61.9
Dilfer, Trent, T.B.	415	224	54.0	2774	6.68	4	1.0	t64	18	4.3	47	331	60.1
NON-QUALIFIERS *(10 or more attempts)*													
Majkowski, Don, Det.	20	15	75.0	161	8.05	1	5.0	22	0	0.0	1	5	114.8
Buck, Mike, Ari.	32	20	62.5	271	8.47	1	3.1	28	0	0.0	2	10	99.9
Grbac, Elvis, S.F.	183	127	69.4	1469	8.03	8	4.4	t81	5	2.7	6	36	96.6
Hebert, Bobby, Atl.	45	28	62.2	313	6.96	2	4.4	t37	1	2.2	0	0	88.5
Rypien, Mark, St.L.	217	129	59.4	1448	6.67	9	4.1	50	8	3.7	11	60	77.9
Wilson, Wade, Dall.	57	38	66.7	391	6.86	1	1.8	38	3	5.3	4	29	70.1
Johnson, Brad, Minn.	36	25	69.4	272	7.56	0	0.0	39	2	5.6	2	18	68.3
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	121	69	57.0	605	5.00	3	2.5	33	5	4.1	13	79	61.5
Detmer, Ty, G.B.	16	8	50.0	81	5.06	1	6.3	25	1	6.3	0	0	59.6
Weldon, Casey, T.B.	91	42	46.2	519	5.70	1	1.1	40	2	2.2	9	55	58.8
Reich, Frank, Car.	84	37	44.0	441	5.25	2	2.4	46	2	2.4	12	100	58.7
Shuler, Heath, Wash.	125	66	52.8	745	5.96	3	2.4	44	7	5.6	13	76	55.6
Conklin, Cary, S.F.	12	4	33.3	48	4.00	0	0.0	28	0	0.0	2	20	46.5
Trudeau, Jack, Car.	17	11	64.7	100	5.88	0	0.0	19	3	17.6	2	8	40.9
Maddox, Tommy, Giants	23	6	26.1	49	2.13	0	0.0	13	3	13.0	2	7	0.0

PUNTING

RECORDS
Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)
Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)
Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Landeta, Sean, St.L.	83	3679	63	44.3	12	0	38	393	23	36.7
Feagles, Jeff, Ari.	72	3150	60	43.8	8	0	32	242	20	38.2
Hutton, Tom, Phil.	85	3682	63	43.3	13	1	38	527	20	33.7
Roby, Reggie, T.B.	77	3296	61	42.8	7	1	41	335	23	36.2
Horan, Mike, Giants	72	3063	60	42.5	8	0	34	297	15	36.2
Turk, Matt, Wash.	74	3140	60	42.4	9	0	26	173	29	37.7
Hentrich, Craig, G.B.	65	2740	61	42.2	7	2	36	279	26	34.6
Royals, Mark, Det.	57	2393	69	42.0	6	2	29	442	15	31.0
Stryzinski, Dan, Atl.	67	2759	64	41.2	5	0	28	236	21	36.2
Barnhardt, Tommy, Car.	95	3906	54	41.1	11	0	39	342	27	35.2
Saxon, Mike, Minn.	72	2948	60	40.9	6	0	41	446	21	33.1
Jett, John, Dall.	53	2166	58	40.9	6	0	22	216	17	34.5
Wilmsmeyer, Klaus, N.O.	73	2965	53	40.6	5	1	36	233	21	35.6
Thompson, Tommy, S.F.	57	2312	65	40.6	5	0	26	292	13	33.7
Sauerbrun, Todd, Chi.	55	2080	61	37.8	6	0	27	248	16	31.1
O'Neill, Pat, N.E.-Chi.	44	1603	57	36.4	3	0	21	183	14	30.9

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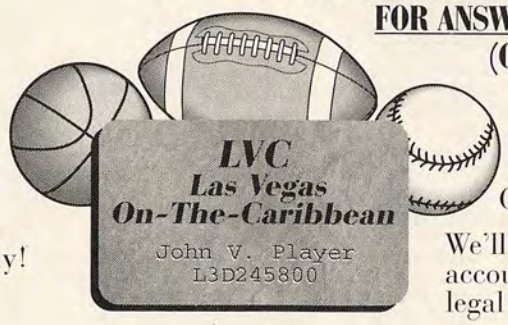

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Wheatley, Tyrone, Giants	78	245	3.1	t19	3
Floyd, William, S.F.	64	237	3.7	23	2
Brown, Dave, Giants	45	228	5.1	23	4
Ellison, Jerry, T.B.	26	218	8.4	75	5
Williams, Sherman, Dall.	48	205	4.3	t44	1
Russell, Leonard, St.L.	66	203	3.1	18	0
Griffith, Howard, Car.	65	197	3.0	15	1
Bailey, Johnny, St.L.	36	182	5.1	17	2
Favre, Brett, G.B.	39	181	4.6	40	3
Robinson, Greg, St.L.	40	165	4.1	37	0
Zellars, Ray, N.O.	50	162	3.2	11	2
Anderson, Jamal, Atl.	39	161	4.1	13	1
Brown, Derek, N.O.	49	159	3.2	t35	1
Christian, Bob, Car.	41	158	3.9	17	0
Peete, Rodney, Phil.	32	147	4.6	18	1
Stewart, James, Minn.	31	144	4.6	51	0
Johnson, Anthony, Chi.-Car.	30	140	4.7	t23	1
Metcalf, Eric, Atl.	28	133	4.8	t23	1
Walker, Herschel, Giants	31	126	4.1	36	0
Levens, Dorsey, G.B.	36	120	3.3	22	3
Dilfer, Trent, T.B.	23	115	5.0	t21	2
Westbrook, Michael, Wash.	6	114	19.0	t58	1
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	25	111	4.4	18	2
Mitchell, Scott, Det.	36	104	2.9	18	4
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	21	98	4.7	20	0
Moss, Brent, St.L.	22	90	4.1	18	0
Thomas, Blair, Car.	22	90	4.1	13	0
Ervins, Ricky, S.F.	23	88	3.8	13	0
Moon, Warren, Minn.	33	82	2.5	16	0
Tillman, Lewis, Chi.	29	78	2.7	9	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	5	77	15.4	20	0
Small, Torrance, N.O.	6	75	12.5	t44	1
Collins, Kerry, Car.	42	74	1.8	10	3
Rivers, Ron, Det.	18	73	4.1	19	1
Logan, Marc, Wash.	23	72	3.1	13	1
Miller, Chris, St.L.	22	67	3.0	13	0
Shepherd, Leslie, Wash.	7	63	9.0	26	1
Baldwin, Randy, Car.	23	61	2.7	9	0
Evans, Charles, Minn.	19	59	3.1	12	1
Shuler, Heath, Wash.	18	57	3.2	13	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	10	53	5.3	14	0
Perriman, Brett, Det.	5	48	9.6	16	0
Elias, Keith, Giants	10	44	4.4	8	0
Walker, Adam, S.F.	14	44	3.1	16	1
Everett, Jim, N.O.	24	42	1.8	9	0
Kramer, Erik, Chi.	35	39	1.1	11	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	5	36	7.2	t20	1
Henderson, William, G.B.	7	35	5.0	17	0
Willis, Jamal, S.F.	12	35	2.9	15	0
Carter, Tony, Chi.	10	34	3.4	7	0
Grbac, Elvis, S.F.	20	33	1.7	11	2
Morton, Johnnie, Det.	3	33	11.0	18	0
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	21	32	1.5	12	1

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS
Receptions: 123, Herman Moore, Detroit (1995)
Yards: 1,848, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1995)
TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

7 OR MORE CATCHES	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Moore, Herman, Det.	123	1686	13.7	t69	14
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	122	1848	15.1	t81	15
Carter, Cris, Minn.	122	1371	11.2	t60	17
Bruce, Isaac, St.L.	119	1781	15.0	72	13
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	111	1603	14.4	50	10
Perriman, Brett, Det.	108	1488	13.8	t91	9
Metcalf, Eric, Atl.	104	1189	11.4	t62	8
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	102	1497	14.7	t99	13
Centers, Larry, Ari.	101	962	9.5	32	2
Loville, Derek, S.F.	87	662	7.6	31	3
Graham, Jeff, Chi.	82	1301	15.9	51	4
Early, Quinn, N.O.	81	1087	13.4	t70	8
Mathis, Terance, Atl.	78	1039	13.3	t54	9
Emanuel, Bert, Atl.	74	1039	14.0	52	5
Reed, Jake, Minn.	72	1167	16.2	t55	9
Lee, Amp, Minn.	71	558	7.9	33	1
Carrier, Mark, Car.	66	1002	15.2	t66	3
Moore, Rob, Ari.	63	907	14.4	45	5
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	63	768	12.2	t37	2
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	62	1037	16.7	t76	12
Harris, Jackie, T.B.	62	751	12.1	33	1
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	62	705	11.4	t33	5
Watters, Ricky, Phil.	62	434	7.0	24	1
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	62	375	6.0	40	0
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	61	648	10.6	35	4
Jones, Brent, S.F.	60	595	9.9	39	3
Walls, Wesley, N.O.	57	694	12.2	29	4
Ellard, Henry, Wash.	56	1005	17.9	59	5
Calloway, Chris, Giants	56	796	14.2	49	3
Chmura, Mark, G.B.	54	679	12.6	33	7
Sanders, Frank, Ari.	52	883	17.0	48	2
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	48	585	12.2	33	5
Levens, Dorsey, G.B.	48	434	9.0	27	4
Sanders, Barry, Det.	48	398	8.3	40	1
Green, Willie, Car.	47	882	18.8	t89	6
Drayton, Troy, St.L.	47	458	9.7	31	4
Floyd, William, S.F.	47	348	7.4	23	1
Harper, Alvin, T.B.	46	633	13.8	49	2
Smith, Irv, N.O.	45	466	10.4	43	3
Morton, Johnnie, Det.	44	590	13.4	t32	8
Sherrard, Mike, Giants	44	577	13.1	t57	4
Haynes, Michael, N.O.	41	597	14.6	48	4
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	41	493	12.0	47	0
Carter, Tony, Chi.	40	329	8.2	27	1
Ingram, Mark, G.B.	39	469	12.0	29	3
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	38	613	16.1	t48	2
Stokes, J.J., S.F.	38	517	13.6	t41	4
Small, Torrance, N.O.	38	461	12.1	t32	5
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	38	324	8.5	t22	1
Bailey, Johnny, St.L.	38	265	7.0	25	0
Heyward, Craig, Atl.	37	350	9.5	25	2
Kinchen, Todd, St.L.	36	419	11.6	35	4
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	35	605	17.3	t64	2
Brown, Derek, N.O.	35	266	7.6	19	1
Westbrook, Michael, Wash.	34	522	15.4	45	1
Pierce, Aaron, Giants	33	310	9.4	26	0
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	32	597	18.7	t85	3
Morgan, Anthony, G.B.	31	344	11.1	t29	4
Birden, J.J., Atl.	31	303	9.8	24	1
Walker, Herschel, Giants	31	234	7.5	34	1
Allen, Terry, Wash.	31	232	7.5	24	1
Hester, Jessie, St.L.	30	399	13.3	t38	3
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	30	372	12.4	26	0
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	30	248	8.3	24	1
Shepherd, Leslie, Wash.	29	486	16.8	t73	2
Guliford, Eric, Car.	29	444	15.3	49	1
Edwards, Anthony, Ari.	29	417	14.4	t28	2
Taylor, John, S.F.	29	387	13.3	40	2
Carpenter, Rob, Phil.	29	318	11.0	29	0
Christian, Bob, Car.	29	255	8.8	23	1
Hearst, Garrison, Ari.	29	243	8.4	39	1
Johnson, Anthony, Chi.-Car.	29	207	7.1	37	0
Green, Robert, Chi.	28	246	8.8	28	0
Jordan, Andrew, Minn.	27	185	6.9	17	2
Cook, Marv, St.L.	26	135	5.2	16	1
Logan, Marc, Wash.	25	276	11.0	32	2
Jennings, Keith, Chi.	25	217	8.7	20	6
Timpson, Michael, Chi.	24	289	12.0	36	2
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi.	24	193	8.0	22	2
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	24	142	5.9	18	0
Wright, Alexander, St.L.	23	368	16.0	50	2
West, Ed, Phil.	20	190	9.5	26	1
Metzelaars, Pete, Car.	20	171	8.6	27	3
Cooper, Adrian, Minn.	18	207	11.5	41	0
Cross, Howard, Giants	18	197	10.9	26	0
Evans, Charles, Minn.	18	119	6.6	24	1
Bates, Mario, N.O.	18	114	6.3	26	0
Bettis, Jerome, St.L.	18	106	5.9	19	0
Martin, Kelvin, Phil.	17	206	12.1	22	0
Brown, Tyrone, Atl.	17	198	11.6	26	0
Marshall, Arthur, Giants	17	195	11.5	27	1
Sloan, David, Det.	17	184	10.8	24	1
Popson, Ted, S.F.	16	128	8.0	16	0
Russell, Leonard, St.L.	16	89	5.6	17	0
Asher, Jamie, Wash.	14	172	12.3	20	0
Bell, Coleman, Wash.	14	166	11.9	t29	1
Beebe, Don, Car.	14	152	10.9	24	1
Gaines, Wendall, Ari.	14	117	8.4	t22	2
Rhett, Errict, T.B.	14	110	7.9	18	0
Jackson, Keith, G.B.	13	142	10.9	22	1
McBride, Oscar, Ari.	13	112	8.6	24	2
Moore, Dave, T.B.	13	102	7.8	21	0
Workman, Vince, Car.	13	74	5.7	14	0
Lewis, Thomas, Giants	12	208	17.3	t46	1
Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	12	123	10.3	t69	1
Palmer, David, Minn.	12	100	8.3	19	0
Hall, Ron, Det.	11	81	7.4	15	0
Walker, Adam, S.F.	11	78	7.1	15	0
Griffith, Howard, Car.	11	63	5.7	15	1
Thomas, Lamar, T.B.	10	107	10.7	24	0
Dowdell, Marcus, Ari.	10	96	9.6	23	0
Galbraith, Scott, Wash.	10	80	8.0	25	2
Garner, Charlie, Phil.	10	61	6.1	29	0
Truitt, Olanda, Wash.	9	154	17.1	47	1
Elias, Keith, Giants	9	69	7.7	18	0
McCrary, Fred, Phil.	9	60	6.7	11	0
Singleton, Nate, S.F.	8	108	13.5	23	1
Freeman, Antonio, G.B.	8	106	13.3	28	1
Preston, Roell, Atl.	7	129	18.4	t61	1
Jordan, Charles, G.B.	7	117	16.7	35	2
Way, Charles, Giants	7	76	10.9	34	1
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B.	7	68	9.7	29	0
Walsh, Chris, Minn.	7	66	9.4	16	0
Salaam, Rashaan, Chi.	7	56	8.0	18	0
Bjornson, Eric, Dall.	7	53	7.6	16	0
Ellison, Jerry, T.B.	7	44	6.3	14	0
Smith, Robert, Minn.	7	35	5.0	11	0
Zellars, Ray, N.O.	7	33	4.7	9	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS
Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)
Yards: 303, Deion Sanders, San Francisco (1994)
Longest return TD: 102 yards, Jim Smith Detroit (1949)
102 yards, Erich Barnes, New York (1961)
TDs: 4, Eric Allen, Philadelphia (1993)

2 OR MORE	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Thomas, Orlanda, Minn.	9	108	12.0	t45	1
Clay, Willie, Det.	8	173	21.6	39	0
Thomas, William, Phil.	7	104	14.9	t37	1
Brown, Larry, Dall.	6	124	20.7	t65	2
Williams, Aeneas, Ari.	6	86	14.3	t48	2
Wright, Toby, St.L.	6	79	13.2	27	0
Maxie, Brett, Car.	6	59	9.8	49	0
Raymond, Corey, Det.	6	44	7.3	18	0
Marion, Brock, Dall.	6	40	6.7	t32	1
Butler, LeRoy, G.B.	5	105	21.0	76	0
Glenn, Vencie, Giants	5	91	18.2	t75	1
Mayhew, Martin, T.B.	5	81	16.2	40	0
Mills, Sam, Car.	5	58	11.6	t36	1
Drakeford, Tyronne, S.F.	5	54	10.8	37	0
Hanks, Merton, S.F.	5	31	6.2	23	0
Sparks, Phillippi, Giants	5	11	2.2	6	0
McDonald, Tim, S.F.	4	135	33.8	t52	2
Carter, Tom, Wash.	4	116	29.0	t51	1
Lyght, Todd, St.L.	4	34	8.5	t29	1
Woolford, Donnell, Chi.	4	21	5.3	16	0
Spencer, Jimmy, N.O.	4	11	2.8	9	0
Norton, Ken, S.F.	3	102	34.0	46	2
McKyer, Tim, Car.	3	99	33.0	t96	1
Davis, Eric, S.F.	3	84	28.0	t86	1
Tuggle, Jessie, Atl.	3	84	28.0	49	1
Frank, Donald, Minn.	3	72	24.0	42	0
Ross, Kevin, Atl.	3	70	23.3	33	0
Phifer, Roman, St.L.	3	52	17.3	25	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	3	42	14.0	22	1
Lyle, Keith, St.L.	3	42	14.0	31	0
Mincy, Charles, Minn.	3	37	12.3	20	0
Miniefield, Kevin, Chi.	3	37	12.3	37	0
Terrell, Pat, Car.	3	33	11.0	21	0
Taylor, Terry, Atl.	3	31	10.3	31	0
McMillian, Mark, Phil.	3	27	9.0	19	0
Richard, Stanley, Wash.	3	24	8.0	24	0
Joyner, Seth, Ari.	3	9	3.0	11	0
Lynch, John, T.B.	3	3	1.0	3	0
Teague, George, G.B.	2	100	50.0	74	0
Strahan, Michael, Giants	2	56	28.0	56	0
Taylor, Bobby, Phil.	2	52	26.0	35	0
Woodson, Darren, Dall.	2	46	23.0	t37	1

Jackson, Alfred, Minn.	2	46	23.0	t37	1
Washington, James, Wash.	2	35	17.5	21	0
Sanders, Deion, Dall.	2	34	17.0	34	0
Joseph, Dwayne, Chi.	2	31	15.5	31	0
Allen, Eric, N.O.	2	28	14.0	28	0
McNeil, Ryan, Det.	2	26	13.0	21	0
Evans, Doug, G.B.	2	24	12.0	24	0
Johnson, Mike, Det.	2	23	11.5	14	0
Hunter, Patrick, Ari.	2	21	10.5	21	0
Carter, Marty, Chi.	2	20	10.0	15	0
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	2	19	9.5	19	0
Dixon, Ernest, N.O.	2	17	8.5	11	0
Randolph, Thomas, Giants	2	15	7.5	15	0
Alexander, Brent, Ari.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Pahukoa, Shane, N.O.	2	12	6.0	12	0
Poole, Tyrone, Car.	2	8	4.0	4	0
Patton, Marvcus, Wash.	2	7	3.5	6	0
Brady, Jeff, Minn.	2	7	3.5	9	0
Romanowski, Bill, Phil.	2	5	2.5	7	0
Johnson, D.J., Atl.	2	4	2.0	2	0
Matthews, Clay, Atl.	2	1	0.5	1	0
Woodall, Lee, S.F.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Hoage, Terry, Ari.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Parker, Anthony, St.L.	2	-5	-2.5	3	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 66, Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans (1995)

Yards: 1,617, Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans(1995)

Longest for TD: 106 yds, Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)
106 yds, Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)
4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	55	1408	25.6	59	0
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	42	1037	24.7	71	0
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	66	1617	24.5	83	0
Thomas, Johnny, St.L.	32	752	23.5	46	0
Freeman, Antonio, G.B.	24	556	23.2	45	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	49	1108	22.6	43	0
Anderson, Jamal, Atl.	24	541	22.5	35	0
Carter, Dexter, Jets-S.F.	56	1227	21.9	57	0
Terry, Ryan, Ari.	37	808	21.8	53	0
Lewis, Nate, Chi.	42	904	21.5	52	0
Walker, Herschel, Giants	41	881	21.5	67	0
Kinchen, Todd, St.L.	35	743	21.2	50	0
Jordan, Charles, G.B.	21	444	21.1	33	0
Preston, Roell, Atl.	30	627	20.9	44	0
Garner, Charlie, Phil.	29	590	20.3	41	0
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, T.B.	58	1147	19.8	44	0
Martin, Kelvin, Phil.	20	388	19.4	38	0

PUNT RETURNS

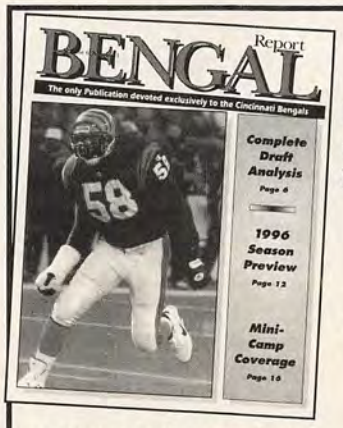
RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece,Tampa Bay (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 103 yards, Robert Bailey, Los Angeles (1994)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Palmer, David, Minn.	26	13	342	13.2	t74	1
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	25	15	315	12.6	t59	1
Guliford, Eric, Car.	43	22	475	11.0	t62	1
Carter, Dexter, Jets-S.F.	30	15	309	10.3	t78	1
Jordan, Charles, G.B.	21	2	213	10.1	18	0
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, T.B.	29	10	293	10.1	45	0
Metcalf, Eric, Atl.	39	14	383	9.8	t66	1
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	28	22	262	9.4	74	0
Graham, Jeff, Chi.	23	14	183	8.0	39	0
Freeman, Antonio, G.B.	37	3	292	7.9	26	0
Kinchen, Todd, St.L.	53	7	416	7.8	27	0



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AFC final statistics

SCORING

RECORDS
Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
Field Goals: 35, Jeff Jaeger, Los Angeles (1993)
Extra Points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Steelers	44	17	21	6	39	39	1	34	41	0	407
Dolphins	46	16	28	2	37	37	2	27	34	0	398
Broncos	42	14	27	1	39	39	2	31	38	0	388
Seahawks	42	20	19	3	40	40	0	23	28	1	363
Chiefs	42	14	21	7	34	37	0	24	30	0	358
Bills	37	10	24	3	33	35	1	31	40	0	350
Bengals	37	7	29	1	34	34	1	29	36	2	349
Oilers	38	12	22	4	33	33	2	27	31	1	348
Raiders	41	10	25	6	39	40	0	21	27	0	348
Colts	37	14	20	3	34	34	2	23	33	1	331
Chargers	37	14	17	6	32	33	1	21	26	1	321
Patriots	32	16	14	2	27	27	3	23	33	0	394
Browns	29	5	21	3	26	26	1	29	33	0	289
Jaguars	31	9	19	3	27	28	1	20	27	0	275
N.Y. Jets	26	2	20	4	24	24	0	17	21	1	233

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Johnson, Norm, Pit.	39	39	34	41	141
Elam, Jason, Den.	39	39	31	38	132
Christie, Steve, Buf.	33	35	31	40	126
Pelfrey, Doug, Cin.	34	34	29	36	121
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia.	37	37	27	34	118
Del Greco, Al, Hou.	33	33	27	31	114
Stover, Matt, Cle.	26	26	29	33	113
Peterson, Todd, Sea.	40	40	23	28	109
Elliott, Lin, K.C.	34	37	24	30	106
Bahr, Matt, N.E.	27	27	23	33	96
Carney, John, S.D.	32	33	21	26	95
Hollis, Mike, Jac.	27	28	20	27	87
Blanchard, Cary, Ind.	25	25	19	24	82
Lowery, Nick, Jets	24	24	17	21	75
Jaeger, Jeff, Oak.	22	22	13	18	61
Ford, Cole, Oak.	17	18	8	9	41
Cofer, Mike, Ind.	9	9	4	9	21

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Pickens, Carl, Cin.	17	0	17	0	102
Warren, Chris, Sea.	16	15	1	0	96
Martin, Curtis, N.E.*	15	14	1	0	92
Faulk, Marshall, Ind.	14	11	3	0	84
Miller, Anthony, Den.	14	0	14	0	84
Brooks, Bill, Buf.	11	0	11	0	66
Brown, Tim, Oak.	10	0	10	0	60
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	10	9	1	0	60
Galloway, Joey, Sea.	9	1	7	1	54
Jackson, Michael, Cle.	9	0	9	0	54
Morris, Bam, Pit.	9	9	0	0	54
Sanders, Chris, Hou.	9	0	9	0	54
Williams, Harvey, Oak.	9	9	0	0	54
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.*	8	0	8	0	50
Davis, Terrell, Den.	8	7	1	0	48
Fryar, Irving, Mia.	8	0	8	0	48
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	8	0	8	0	48
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	8	0	8	0	48
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	8	6	2	0	48
Thomas, Rodney, Hou.*	7	5	2	0	44
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	7	4	3	0	42
Pegram, Erric, Pit.*	6	5	1	0	38
Coates, Ben, N.E.	6	0	6	0	36
Craver, Aaron, Den.	6	5	1	0	36
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	6	1	5	0	36
Martin, Tony, S.D.	6	0	6	0	36
Jackson, Willie, Jac.*	5	0	5	0	32
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	5	5	0	0	30
Bono, Steve, K.C.	5	5	0	0	30
Davis, Willie, K.C.	5	0	5	0	30
Dawson, Lake, K.C.	5	0	5	0	30
Means, Natrone, S.D.	5	5	0	0	30
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	5	0	5	0	30
Scott, Darnay, Cin.	5	0	5	0	30
Smith, Jimmy L., Jac.	5	0	3	2	30
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit.	5	0	5	0	30
Vanover, Tamarick, K.C.	5	0	2	3	30
Turner, Floyd, Ind.+	4	0	4	0	28
Bailey, Aaron, Ind.	4	0	3	1	24
Blades, Brian, Sea.	4	0	4	0	24
Brunell, Mark, Jac.	4	4	0	0	24
Butts, Marion, Hou.	4	4	0	0	24
Byner, Earnest, Cle.	4	2	2	0	24
Chrebet, Wayne, Jets	4	0	4	0	24
Dilger, Ken, Ind.	4	0	4	0	24
Holmes, Darick, Buf.	4	4	0	0	24
McCardell, Keenan, Cle.	4	0	4	0	24
McGee, Tony, Cin.	4	0	4	0	24
Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	4	0	4	0	24
Slaughter, Webster, K.C.	4	0	4	0	24
Strong, Mack, Sea.	4	1	3	0	24
Wilson, Charles, Jets	4	0	4	0	24
Green, Eric, Mia.*	3	0	3	0	20
Seay, Mark, S.D.*	3	0	3	0	20
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	3	2	1	0	18
Armour, Justin, Buf.	3	0	3	0	18
Bieniemy, Eric, Cin.	3	3	0	0	18
Brisby, Vincent, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Bruener, Mark, Pit.	3	0	3	0	18
Byars, Keith, Mia.	3	1	2	0	18
Coleman, Andre, S.D.	3	0	0	3	18
Culver, Rodney, S.D.	3	3	0	0	18
Dawkins, Sean, Ind.	3	0	3	0	18
Fenner, Derrick, Oak.	3	0	3	0	18
Givins, Ernest, Jac.	3	0	3	0	18
Glover, Andrew, Oak.	3	0	3	0	18
Green, Harold, Cin.	3	2	1	0	18
Hayden, Aaron, S.D.	3	3	0	0	18
Hobbs, Daryl, Oak.	3	0	3	0	18
Ismail, Raghib, Oak.	3	0	3	0	18
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	3	1	2	0	18
Pritchard, Mike, Den.	3	0	3	0	18
Reed, Andre, Buf.	3	0	3	0	18
Rison, Andre, Cle.	3	0	3	0	18
Stewart, James, Jac.	3	2	1	0	18
Tasker, Steve, Buf.	3	0	3	0	18
Tillman, Cedric, Jac.	3	0	3	0	18
Meggett, David, N.E.+	2	2	0	0	16
Blake, Jeff, Cin.*	2	2	0	0	14
Chandler, Chris, Hou.*	2	2	0	0	14
McCaffrey, Ed, Den.*	2	0	2	0	14
Anderson, Flipper, Ind.	2	0	2	0	12
Brady, Kyle, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
Cash, Kerry, Oak.	2	0	2	0	12
Clark, Gary, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
Dunbar, Vaughn, Jac.	2	2	0	0	12
Gayle, Shaun, S.D.	2	0	0	2	12
Graham, Hason, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Harbaugh, Jim, Ind.	2	2	0	0	12
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	2	0	1	1	12
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12
Kaufman, Napoleon, Oak.	2	1	0	1	12
Mitchell, Pete, Jac.	2	0	2	0	12
Spikes, Irving, Mia.	2	1	1	0	12
Stewart, Kordell, Pit.	2	1	1	0	12
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	2	2	0	0	12
Wycheck, Frank, Hou.	2	1	1	0	12
Yarborough, Ryan, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
Bennett, Tony, Ind.	1	0	0	1	8
Elway, John, Den.*	1	1	0	0	8
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.*	1	0	0	1	8
Alexander, Derrick, Cle.	1	0	0	1	6
Avery, Steve, Pit.	1	0	1	0	6
Baxter, Fred, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Baxter, Brad, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Bennett, Cornelius, Buf.	1	0	0	1	6
Bernstine, Rod, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Bishop, Blaine, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Booker, Vaughn, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Brock, Matt, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Broussard, Steve, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6

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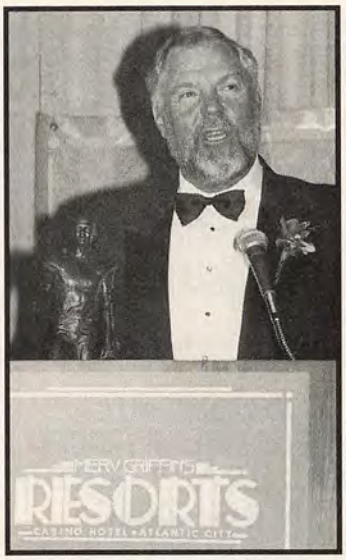

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AFC final statistics

Brown, Troy, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Bruce, Aundray, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Buckner, Brentson, Pit.	1	0	0	1	6
Caldwell, Mike, Cle.	1	0	0	1	6
Cash, Keith, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Cecil, Chuck, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Christopherson, Ryan, Jac.	1	1	0	0	6
Collins, Mark, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	1	0	1	0	6
Crockett, Ray, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Crumpler, Carlester, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Daniel, Eugene, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Dixon, Gerald, Cle.	1	0	0	1	6
Dunn, David, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Antonio, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Evans, Jerry, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Fauria, Christian, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Fletcher, Terrell, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Fredrickson, Rob, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Gannon, Rich, K.C.	1	1	0	0	6
Gash, Sam, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Harris, Corey, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Hartley, Frank, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Hasty, James, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Hill, Greg, K.C.	1	1	0	0	6
Howard, Desmond, Jac.	1	0	1	0	6
Hughes, Danan, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Jett, James, Oak.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Lonnie, Buf.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Pat, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Jones, Gary, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Mike, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Roger, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Jordan, Randy, Jac.	1	0	1	0	6
Kosar, Bernie, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
Lake, Carnell, Pit.	1	0	0	1	6
Lester, Tim, Pit.	1	1	0	0	6
Lewis, Darryll, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Mo, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Mays, Alvoid, Pit.	1	0	0	1	6
McAfee, Fred, Pit.	1	1	0	0	6
McDaniel, Terry, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
McNair, Todd, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Mirer, Rick, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Mitchell, Shannon, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Moore, Will, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Oldham, Chris, Pit.	1	0	0	1	6
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Reeves, Walter, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Robbins, Austin, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Robinson, Eddie, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Schulz, Kurt, Buf.	1	0	0	1	6
Seabron, Malcolm, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Seau, Junior, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Slade, Chris, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Otis, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Rico, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Rod, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Steve, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Thomas, Robb, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Tuten, Melvin, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Valerio, Joe, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Walker, Derrick, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Warren, Lamont, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Washington, Brian, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Washington, Mickey, Jac.	1	0	0	1	6
White, Lorenzo, Cle.	1	1	0	0	6
Williams, John L., Pit.	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Willie, Pit.	1	0	0	1	6
Adams, Sam, Sea.	0	0	0	0	2
Workman, Vince, Car.-Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Zeier, Eric, Cle.	0	0	0	0	4
Adams, Sam, Sea.	0	0	0	0	#2
Cook, Anthony, Hou.	0	0	0	0	#2
Davis, Reuben, S.D.	0	0	0	0	#2
Howard, Erik, Jets	0	0	0	0	#2
Williams, Darryl, Cin.	0	0	0	0	#2
Zeier, Eric, Cle.	0	0	0	1	#2

** = Two-Point Conversion(s) # = Safety*

RUSHING

RECORDS
Carries: 390, Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (1992)
Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)
TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)
19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

30 OR MORE YARDS	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Martin, Curtis, N.E.	368	1487	4.0	49	14
Warren, Chris, Sea.	310	1346	4.3	52	15
Davis, Terrell, Den.	237	1117	4.7	t60	7
Williams, Harvey, Oak.	255	1114	4.4	60	9
Faulk, Marshall, Ind.	289	1078	3.7	40	11
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	267	1005	3.8	49	6
Thomas, Rodney, Hou.	251	947	3.8	t74	5
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	207	890	4.3	38	5
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	236	878	3.7	40	9
Pegram, Erric, Pit.	213	813	3.8	38	5
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	192	795	4.1	30	1
Means, Natrone, S.D.	186	730	3.9	36	5
Holmes, Darick, Buf.	172	698	4.1	t38	4
Hill, Greg, K.C.	155	667	4.3	27	1
Green, Harold, Cin.	171	661	3.9	t23	2
Morris, Bam, Pit.	148	559	3.8	t30	9
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	136	547	4.0	25	0
Stewart, James, Jac.	137	525	3.8	22	2
Kaufman, Napoleon, Oak.	108	490	4.5	28	1
Brunell, Mark, Jac.	67	480	7.2	t27	4
Hayden, Aaron, S.D.	128	470	3.7	20	3
Byner, Earnest, Cle.	115	432	3.8	23	2
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	108	414	3.8	38	4
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	58	398	6.9	44	2
Bieniemy, Eric, Cin.	98	381	3.9	27	3
Dunbar, Vaughn, N.O.-Jac.	110	361	3.3	26	2
Craver, Aaron, Den.	73	333	4.6	23	5
Blake, Jeff, Cin.	53	309	5.8	30	2
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	65	309	4.8	37	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets	85	296	3.5	26	1
Brown, Gary, Hou.	86	293	3.4	21	0
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	49	266	5.4	29	0
Meggett, David, N.E.	60	250	4.2	25	2
Harbaugh, Jim, Ind.	52	235	4.5	21	2
Broussard, Steve, Sea.	46	222	4.8	t21	1
Smith, Lamar, Sea.	36	215	6.0	68	0
Mirer, Rick, Sea.	43	193	4.5	24	1
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	51	187	3.7	t48	1
Maston, Le'Shai, Jac.	41	186	4.5	21	0
Butts, Marion, Hou.	71	185	2.6	9	4
Elway, John, Den.	41	176	4.3	25	1
Workman, Vince, Car.-Ind.	44	165	3.8	14	1
White, Lorenzo, Cle.	62	163	2.6	11	1
McAfee, Fred, Pit.	39	156	4.0	t22	1
Culver, Rodney, S.D.	47	155	3.3	17	3
Galloway, Joey, Sea.	11	154	14.0	t86	1
Warren, Lamont, Ind.	47	152	3.2	42	1
Fletcher, Terrell, S.D.	26	140	5.4	46	1
McNair, Todd, Hou.	19	136	7.2	22	0
Spikes, Irving, Mia.	32	126	3.9	t17	1
Moore, Ronald, Jets	43	121	2.8	14	0
Hostetler, Jeff, Oak.	31	119	3.8	18	0
Bono, Steve, K.C.	28	113	4.0	t76	5
Fenner, Derrick, Oak.	39	110	2.8	10	0
Williams, John L., Pit.	29	110	3.8	31	0
Hunter, Earnest, Cle.	30	100	3.3	15	0
Stewart, Kordell, Pit.	15	86	5.7	t22	1
Zeier, Eric, Cle.	15	80	5.3	17	0
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	20	77	3.9	17	0
Bernstine, Rod, Den.	23	76	3.3	18	1
Tasker, Steve, Buf.	8	74	9.3	17	0
Thompson, Leroy, K.C.	28	73	2.6	10	0
Cothran, Jeff, Cin.	16	62	3.9	15	0
Jordan, Randy, Jac.	21	62	3.0	10	0
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	18	62	3.4	14	2
Chandler, Chris, Hou.	28	58	2.1	9	2
Croom, Corey, N.E.	13	54	4.2	12	0
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	33	53	1.6	18	1
Powers, Ricky, Cle.	14	51	3.6	15	0
Reed, Andre, Buf.	7	48	6.9	14	0
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	24	45	1.9	14	0

Byars, Keith, Mia	15	44	2.9	15	1
Joseph, James, Cin	16	40	2.5	8	0
Mills, Ernie, Pit	5	39	7.8	20	0
McNair, Steve, Hou	11	38	3.5	13	0
Evans, Vince, Oak	14	36	2.6	11	0
Bailey, Aaron, Ind	1	34	34.0	34	0
Beuerlein, Steve, Jac	5	32	6.4	13	0
Jourdain, Yonel, Buf	8	31	3.9	19	0
Vanover, Tamarick, K.C	6	31	5.2	13	0

t = touchdown

PASSING

RECORDS
Completions: 404, Warren Moon, Houston (1991)
Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)
99 yards, Stan Humphries to Tony Martin, San Diego (1994)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Harbaugh, Jim, Ind	314	200	63.7	2575	8.20	17	5.4	52	5	1.6	36	219	100.7
Marino, Dan, Mia	482	309	64.1	3668	7.61	24	5.0	t67	15	3.1	22	153	90.8
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle	392	241	61.5	2883	7.35	17	4.3	t70	10	2.6	17	87	87.8
Chandler, Chris, Hou	356	225	63.2	2460	6.91	17	4.8	t76	10	2.8	21	173	87.8
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit	416	246	59.1	2970	7.14	17	4.1	t71	7	1.7	15	126	87.7
Elway, John, Den	542	316	58.3	3970	7.32	26	4.8	t62	14	2.6	22	180	86.4
Brunell, Mark, Jac	346	201	58.1	2168	6.27	15	4.3	45	7	2.0	39	238	82.6
Hostetler, Jeff, Oak	286	172	60.1	1998	6.99	12	4.2	t80	9	3.1	22	133	82.2
Blake, Jeff, Cin	567	326	57.5	3822	6.74	28	4.9	t88	17	3.0	24	152	82.1
Kelly, Jim, Buf	458	255	55.7	3130	6.83	22	4.8	t77	13	2.8	26	181	81.1
Humphries, Stan, S.D	478	282	59.0	3381	7.07	17	3.6	t51	14	2.9	23	197	80.4
Bono, Steve, K.C	520	293	56.3	3121	6.00	21	4.0	t60	10	1.9	21	158	79.5
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	389	221	56.8	2275	5.85	16	4.1	t43	15	3.9	27	198	71.4
Mirer, Rick, Sea	391	209	53.5	2564	6.56	13	3.3	t59	20	5.1	42	255	63.7
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E	636	323	50.8	3507	5.51	13	2.0	t47	16	2.5	23	170	63.7
NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)													
Van Pelt, Alex, Buf	18	10	55.6	106	5.89	2	11.1	t19	0	0.0	0	0	110.0
Musgrave, Bill, Den	12	8	66.7	93	7.75	0	0.0	23	0	0.0	0	0	89.9
Millen, Hugh, Den	40	26	65.0	197	4.93	1	2.5	18	0	0.0	4	35	85.1
McNair, Steve, Hou	80	41	51.3	569	7.11	3	3.8	53	1	1.3	6	63	81.7
Zolak, Scott, N.E	49	28	57.1	282	5.76	1	2.0	72	0	0.0	4	28	80.5
Friesz, John, Sea	120	64	53.3	795	6.63	6	5.0	t43	3	2.5	3	12	80.4
Hobert, Billy Joe, Oak	80	44	55.0	540	6.75	6	7.5	t80	4	5.0	3	11	80.2
Gannon, Rich, K.C	11	7	63.6	57	5.18	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	0	0	76.7
Kosar, Bernie, Mia	108	74	68.5	699	6.47	3	2.8	t31	5	4.6	6	28	76.1
Erickson, Craig, Ind	83	50	60.2	586	7.06	3	3.6	39	4	4.8	10	68	73.7
Evans, Vince, Oak	175	100	57.1	1236	7.06	6	3.4	t73	8	4.6	11	70	71.5
Beuerlein, Steve, Jac	142	71	50.0	952	6.70	4	2.8	t71	7	4.9	17	103	60.5
Klingler, David, Cin	15	7	46.7	88	5.87	1	6.7	33	1	6.7	1	10	59.9
Miller, Jim, Pit	56	32	57.1	397	7.09	2	3.6	t42	5	8.9	2	8	53.9
Brister, Bubby, Jets	170	93	54.7	726	4.27	4	2.4	32	8	4.7	16	122	53.7
Foley, Glenn, Jets	29	16	55.2	128	4.41	0	0.0	32	1	3.4	4	21	52.1
Justin, Paul, Ind	36	20	55.6	212	5.89	0	0.0	20	2	5.6	3	22	49.8
Gilbert, Gale, S.D	61	36	59.0	325	5.33	0	0.0	41	4	6.6	9	43	46.1
Tomczak, Mike, Pit	113	65	57.5	666	5.89	1	0.9	29	9	8.0	6	42	44.3
Collins, Todd, Buf	29	14	48.3	112	3.86	0	0.0	18	1	3.4	6	43	44.0
Furrer, Will, Hou	99	48	48.5	483	4.88	2	2.0	48	7	7.1	5	35	40.1

PUNTING

RECORDS
Number: 108, Rick Tuten, Seattle (1992)
Average: 46.9 yards, Greg Montgomery, Houston (1992)
Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Tuten, Rick, Sea	83	3735	73	45.0	8	0	48	549	21	36.5
Bennett, Darren, S.D	72	3221	66	44.7	8	0	35	429	28	36.6
Aguiar, Louis, K.C	91	3990	65	43.8	12	0	42	433	29	36.5
Barker, Bryan, Jac	82	3591	63	43.8	5	0	45	323	19	38.6
Tupa, Tom, Cle	65	2831	64	43.6	9	0	34	296	18	36.2
Kidd, John, Mia	57	2433	56	42.7	5	0	35	265	15	36.3
Gardocki, Chris, Ind	63	2681	69	42.6	7	0	37	436	16	33.4
Rouen, Tom, Den	52	2192	61	42.2	3	1	25	137	22	37.6
Johnson, Lee, Cin	68	2861	61	42.1	4	0	27	154	26	38.6
Hansen, Brian, Jets	99	4090	67	41.3	10	1	59	703	23	31.9
Gossett, Jeff, Oak	75	3089	60	41.2	8	1	38	294	22	34.7
Camarillo, Rich, Hou	77	3165	60	41.1	8	1	35	288	26	34.8
Mohr, Chris, Buf	86	3473	60	40.4	7	0	23	224	23	36.2
Stark, Rohn, Pit	59	2368	64	40.1	11	0	22	186	20	33.3

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PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS
Receptions: 101, Charley Hennigan, Houston(1964)
Yards: 1,746, Charley Hennigan, Houston (1961)
TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

13 OR MORE CATCHES	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Pickens, Carl, Cin.	99	1234	12.5	t68	17
Martin, Tony, S.D.	90	1224	13.6	t51	6
Brown, Tim, Oak.	89	1342	15.1	t80	10
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit.	85	1307	15.4	43	5
Coates, Ben, N.E.	84	915	10.9	35	6
Blades, Brian, Sea.	77	1001	13.0	49	4
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	71	465	6.5	43	2
Galloway, Joey, Sea.	67	1039	15.5	t59	7
Brisby, Vincent, N.E.	66	974	14.8	72	3
Chrebet, Wayne, Jets	66	726	11.0	32	4
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	66	618	9.4	46	3
Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	63	756	12.0	49	4
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	63	673	10.7	44	5
Fryar, Irving, Mia.	62	910	14.7	t67	8
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	62	819	13.2	48	8
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	61	684	11.2	t35	8
Byner, Earnest, Cle.	61	494	8.1	t29	2
McNair, Todd, Hou.	60	501	8.4	25	1
Miller, Anthony, Den.	59	1079	18.3	t62	14
McCardell, Keenan, Cle.	56	709	12.7	36	4
Faulk, Marshall, Ind.	56	475	8.5	34	3
McGee, Tony, Cin.	55	754	13.7	41	4
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	55	349	6.3	28	1
Williams, Harvey, Oak.	54	375	6.9	28	0
Brooks, Bill, Buf.	53	763	14.4	t51	11
Jackson, Willie, Jac.	53	589	11.1	45	5
Scott, Darnay, Cin.	52	821	15.8	t88	5
Dawkins, Sean, Ind.	52	784	15.1	52	3
Meggett, David, N.E.	52	334	6.4	19	0
Byars, Keith, Mia.	51	362	7.1	26	2
Johnson, Lonnie, Buf.	49	504	10.3	52	1
Davis, Terrell, Den.	49	367	7.5	31	1
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	48	621	12.9	45	2
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	48	502	10.5	36	1
Rison, Andre, Cle.	47	701	14.9	59	3
Seay, Mark, S.D.	45	537	11.9	t38	3
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	45	497	11.0	t43	5
Jackson, Michael, Cle.	44	714	16.2	t70	9
Moore, Will, N.E.	43	502	11.7	33	1
Green, Eric, Mia.	43	499	11.6	t31	3
Bieniemy, Eric, Cin.	43	424	9.9	33	0
Craver, Aaron, Den.	43	369	8.6	32	1
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	42	646	15.4	t77	1
Dilger, Ken, Ind.	42	635	15.1	42	4
Cash, Keith, K.C.	42	419	10.0	t38	1
Mitchell, Pete, Jac.	41	527	12.9	35	2
Wilson, Charles, Jets	41	484	11.8	24	4
Dawson, Lake, K.C.	40	513	12.8	t45	5
Wycheck, Frank, Hou.	40	471	11.8	t36	1
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	39	679	17.4	t62	8
McCaffrey, Ed, Den.	39	477	12.2	35	2
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	39	345	8.8	35	1
Thomas, Rodney, Hou.	39	204	5.2	19	2
Hobbs, Daryl, Oak.	38	612	16.1	t54	3
Johnson, Charles, Pit.	38	432	11.4	33	0
Clark, Gary, Mia.	37	525	14.2	t42	2
Sanders, Chris, Hou.	35	823	23.5	t76	9
Turner, Floyd, Ind.	35	431	12.3	t47	4
Pupunu, Alfred, S.D.	35	315	9.0	26	0
Fenner, Derrick, Oak.	35	252	7.2	23	3
Warren, Chris, Sea.	35	247	7.1	t20	1
Slaughter, Webster, K.C.	34	514	15.1	38	4
Davis, Willie, K.C.	33	527	16.0	t60	5
Pritchard, Mike, Den.	33	441	13.4	t45	3
Tillman, Cedric, Jac.	30	368	12.3	28	3
Martin, Curtis, N.E.	30	261	8.7	27	1
Givins, Ernest, Jac.	29	280	9.7	18	3
Ismail, Raghib, Oak.	28	491	17.5	t73	3
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	27	210	7.8	20	0
Green, Harold, Cin.	27	182	6.7	24	1
Armour, Justin, Buf.	26	300	11.5	t28	3
Howard, Desmond, Jac.	26	276	10.6	24	1
Brady, Kyle, Jets	26	252	9.7	29	2
Gash, Sam, N.E.	26	242	9.3	30	1
Bruener, Mark, Pit.	26	238	9.2	29	3
Glover, Andrew, Oak.	26	220	8.5	25	3
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	26	220	8.5	60	2
Pegram, Erric, Pit.	26	206	7.9	22	1
Baxter, Brad, Jets	26	160	6.2	20	0
Cash, Kerry, Oak.	25	254	10.2	23	2
Walker, Derrick, K.C.	25	205	8.2	t18	1
Russell, Derek, Hou.	24	321	13.4	57	0
Reed, Andre, Buf.	24	312	13.0	t41	3
Holmes, Darick, Buf.	24	214	8.9	47	0
Williams, John L., Pit.	24	127	5.3	20	1
Crumpler, Carlester, Sea.	23	254	11.0	24	1
Smith, Jimmy, Jac.	22	288	13.1	33	3
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	22	191	8.7	23	0
Bailey, Aaron, Ind.	21	379	18.0	45	3
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	21	228	10.9	52	1
Stewart, James, Jac.	21	190	9.0	38	1
Tasker, Steve, Buf.	20	255	12.8	43	3
Kinchen, Brian, Cle.	20	216	10.8	41	0
Joseph, James, Cin.	20	118	5.9	13	0
Yarborough, Ryan, Jets	18	230	12.8	38	2
Baxter, Fred, Jets	18	222	12.3	32	1
Maston, Le'Shai, Jac.	18	131	7.3	19	0
Dunn, David, Cin.	17	209	12.3	37	1
Fauria, Christian, Sea.	17	181	10.6	t20	1
Warren, Lamont, Ind.	17	159	9.4	18	0
Griffith, Rich, Jac.	16	243	15.2	39	0
Bishop, Harold, Cle.	16	135	8.4	21	0
Lewis, Roderick, Hou.	16	116	7.3	16	0
Alexander, Derrick, Cle.	15	216	14.4	40	0
Burke, John, N.E.	15	136	9.1	21	0
McAfee, Fred, Pit.	15	88	5.9	18	0
Stewart, Kordell, Pit.	14	235	16.8	t71	1
Brown, Troy, N.E.	14	159	11.4	31	0
Hughes, Danan, K.C.	14	103	7.4	16	1
Jett, James, Oak.	13	179	13.8	t26	1
Smith, Rico, Cle.	13	173	13.3	t29	1
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	13	103	7.9	24	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS
Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)
Yards: 349, Charley McNeil, San Diego (1961)
Longest TD return : 103 yards, Vencie Glenn, San Diego (1987)
103 yards, Louis Oliver, Miami (1992)

TWO OR MORE	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Williams, Willie, Pit.	7	122	17.4	t63	1
Lewis, Darryll, Hou.	6	145	24.2	t98	1
Smith, Otis, Jets	6	101	16.8	t49	1
Schulz, Kurt, Buf.	6	48	8.0	t32	1
McDaniel, Terry, Oak.	6	46	7.7	t42	1
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	5	95	19.0	t69	1
Moore, Stevon, Cle.	5	55	11.0	28	0
Blackmon, Robert, Sea.	5	46	9.2	21	0
Harrison, Rodney, S.D.	5	22	4.4	17	0
Perry, Darren, Pit.	4	71	17.8	26	0
Walker, Bracey, Cin.	4	56	14.0	23	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	4	45	11.3	29	0
Gray, Carlton, Sea.	4	45	11.3	26	0
Harper, Dwayne, S.D.	4	12	3.0	15	0
Brown, Vincent, N.E.	4	1	0.3	1	0
Daniel, Eugene, Ind.	3	142	47.3	t97	1
Washington, Brian, K.C.	3	100	33.3	t74	1
Hasty, James, K.C.	3	89	29.7	t64	1
Lloyd, Greg, Pit.	3	85	28.3	52	0
Guyton, Myron, N.E.	3	68	22.7	45	0
Atwater, Steve, Den.	3	54	18.0	25	0
Law, Ty, N.E.	3	47	15.7	38	0
Colon, Harry, Jac.	3	46	15.3	41	0
Cecil, Chuck, Hou.	3	35	11.7	t20	1
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	3	17	5.7	17	0
Ambrose, Ashley, Ind.	3	12	4.0	7	0
Reynolds, Ricky, N.E.	3	6	2.0	4	0
Harris, Corey, Sea.	3	-5	-1.7	0	0
Gayle, Shaun, S.D.	2	99	49.5	t99	1
Sawyer, Corey, Cin.	2	61	30.5	61	0
Buchanan, Ray, Ind.	2	60	30.0	60	0
Jones, Gary, Jets	2	51	25.5	t49	1
Dixon, Gerald, Cle.	2	48	24.0	30	1
White, William, K.C.	2	48	24.0	30	0
Hall, Dana, Cle.	2	41	20.5	36	0
Joseph, Vance, Jets	2	39	19.5	39	0
Darby, Matt, Buf.	2	37	18.5	37	0
Braxton, Tyrone, Den.	2	36	18.0	36	0
Mays, Alvoid, Pit.	2	35	17.5	t32	1
Langham, Antonio, Cle.	2	29	14.5	29	0
Caldwell, Mike, Cle.	2	24	12.0	t24	1
Smith, Thomas, Buf.	2	23	11.5	13	0
Johnson, Pepper, Cle.	2	22	11.0	22	0
Lewis, Mo, Jets	2	22	11.0	t15	1
Brown, J.B., Mia.	2	20	10.0	20	0
Marshall, Wilber, Jets	2	20	10.0	20	0
Williams, James, Jac.	2	19	9.5	16	0
Clark, Willie, S.D.	2	14	7.0	13	0
Goganious, Keith, Jac.	2	11	5.5	6	0
Barnes, Tomur, Hou.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Alexander, Elijah, Den.	2	5	2.5	4	0
Seau, Junior, S.D.	2	5	2.5	3	0
Bell, Myron, Pit.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Collins, Andre, Cin.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Harris, Odie, Hou.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Jackson, Steve, Hou.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Paup, Bryce, Buf.	2	0	0.0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS
Number: 62, Andre Coleman, San Diego (1995)
Yards: 1,411, Andre Coleman, San Diego (1995)
Longest for TD: 106 yards, Noland Smith, Kansas City (1967)
TDs: 3, Raymond Clayborn, New England (1977)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Carpenter, Ron, Jets	21	553	27.7	58	0
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	47	1269	27.0	86	0
Kaufman, Napoleon, Oak.	22	572	26.0	t84	1
Vanover, Tamarick, K.C.	43	1095	25.5	t99	2
Meggett, David, N.E.	38	964	25.4	62	0
Broussard, Steve, Sea.	43	1064	24.7	70	0
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	23	564	24.5	47	0
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	54	1306	24.2	57	0
Bailey, Aaron, Ind.	21	495	23.6	t95	1
Coleman, Andre, S.D.	62	1411	22.8	t92	2
Smith, Jimmy, L,* Jac.	24	540	22.5	89	1
Gray, Mel, Hou.	53	1183	22.3	54	0
Hunter, Ernest, Cle.	23	508	22.1	37	0
Dunn, David, Cin.	50	1092	21.8	45	0
Brown, Troy, N.E.	31	672	21.7	38	0
Humphrey, Ronald, Ind.	21	453	21.6	64	0
Holmes, Darick, Buf.	39	799	20.5	42	0
Alexander, Derrick, Cle.	21	419	20.0	42	0
Ismail, Raghib, Oak.	36	706	19.6	43	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS
Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)
Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)
Longest for TD: 98 yards, Terance Mathis, New York (1990)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Coleman, Andre, S.D.	28	14	326	11.6	t88	1
Burris, Jeff, Buf.	20	1	229	11.5	40	0
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	31	17	354	11.4	44	0
Vanover, Tamarick, K.C.	51	4	540	10.6	t86	1
Howard, Desmond, Jac.	24	8	246	10.3	40	0
Brown, Tim, Oak.	36	9	364	10.1	38	0
Gray, Mel, Hou.	30	20	303	10.1	20	0
Galloway, Joey, Sea.	36	12	360	10.0	t89	1
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	48	8	474	9.9	t72	1
Meggett, David, N.E.	45	17	383	8.5	23	0
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	24	12	163	6.8	24	0

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